

Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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From the President

By Debby Joseph



Jews celebrate a new year at least three times in the year. *Rosh Hashanah* is a time for personal reflection of the prior year's deeds which offers the opportunity to reset our personal commitment to treating others with love, respect and kindness throughout the coming year. The secular new year is a time for revelry and a second chance to establish personal goals. For me, Passover is a time for us to take stock of our historic and religious identity as Jews. It is a time for us to remember where we come from as we consider who we are today and where we will be tomorrow. Falling as it does in the spring time adds to the hopefulness of the holiday's themes. Spring is a time of rebirth and Passover offers those whose observances are more traditional, an opportunity for "Spring cleaning."

Adas Israel also enters this period as a welcome opportunity to reflect upon the past year as it prepares for the year ahead. As MakomDC programs wind down, planning commences for next year's themes and programs. The schools review the accomplishments of the current year and focus on the year ahead. Under Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum's supervision, Gan and early childhood leaders have been preparing its blueprint for the years ahead, having reviewed the curriculum and educational accomplishments of this past year with an eye towards incorporating the Strategic Values developed by the Gan's Strategic Planning Initiative last year.

Annual performance evaluations are also being done for all personnel, as is Adas Israel's custom. And the Bylaws revision will continue as planned. We are still hopeful that they will be ready for approval at the Annual Meeting.

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clergy corner



Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

In Every Generation . . .

This year at Passover, let's enter into the holiday by remembering the history of how, and where, our religion arose. The two great civilizations of the ancient near east were Babylonia and Egypt, and the Jewish people, in our land slivered between the two civilizations, formed in opposition to both. Where the Nile basin and Mesopotamia nurtured civilizations of power and might, the land of Israel wrought a new kind of people, a people who had no overflowing rivers to water their crops, no guarantee of abundance. This new kind of people of Israel was fashioned to be dependent on God alone.

The story of *Genesis* begins with Creation and the foundational family of Abraham, the wandering Aramean, and his family leaving Ur in Mesopotamia. The *midrash* makes it clear that Avram leaves because his pagan society couldn't imagine, and therefore couldn't see, what is really divine, so obsessed were they with gods of stone.

The book of *Exodus* begins our narrative not just as a family, but as a people. Unlike other nations' foundation stories, our story is not that of a heroic people descended from demigods; our beginning identity is not mighty but lowly. We were landless strangers. We were refugees from famine who arrived during a welcoming regime, and then were cast into abuse and slavery when a new regime arose. God, personally, intervenes to take us from slavery to freedom. In the ninth plague, darkness, the *midrash* once again identifies the spiritual lack—this time in Egypt—in the plague that is a perfect metaphor for Egypt's spiritual/moral failure: the darkness represents the inability to see one another as human beings, to empathize. Once again, our Jewish story emerges in the context of a wider society of people who cannot see.

In every generation people are obligated to see themselves as if they personally came out of Egypt. This is the central commandment of Passover. Sometimes we find ourselves overwhelmed by the "pots and pantheism" (i.e., the obsession with Passover food, dishes, cooking, and ingredients). How exhausting it all is! How expensive! How much work! The struggle to clear away distraction and excess—the struggle to reach that simple place whence began our ancestors in Egypt—it all gets lost in the struggle to figure out all the details of observance. In truth, however, Passover is a "cleanse" holiday; its food is a "cleanse diet" meant to get us to eat only the most simple foods and fruits and vegetables. Its message is the triumph of the lowly people over the tyranny of Pharaoh.

For this week we enjoy our blessings, drink wine, and eat abundantly, but without hubris. We count our blessings as free people, truly appreciating our lives and our gift of freedom from oppression. We clear away distraction, so we can see, truly see. We see how blessed we are and how there are others who cannot enjoy

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Garden of the Righteous Honoring the Veseli Family from Albania

Sunday, April 23, 10:30 am–Noon

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



On Sunday April 23, Adas Israel 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. All seven members of these two families stayed in the Veselis' home from fall 1943 until the liberation of Albania in November 1944. Throughout this time, the entire Veseli family, in particular Vesel and his wife, Fatima, ensured that

the families were safe and provided them with all their daily needs.

On December 23, 1987, Yad Vashem recognized Vesel and Fatima Veseli and their son, Refik Veseli, as *Righteous Among the Nations*. On May 23, 2004, Yad Vashem also recognized two other sons of Vesel and Fatima, Hamid and Xhemal Veseli, as *Righteous Among the Nations*. What is remarkable about the Veseli family's story is that their community's courage is as much a part of the narrative as their own. The Veseli family was one of hundreds of Albanian families that risked their lives to save the lives of Jews during World War II.

Albania was the only country in Nazi-occupied Europe that ended World War II with more Jews living in it 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 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.

We are pleased to display the traveling photo exhibition, *BESA: Albanian Muslims Who Saved Jews During World War II*, in our lobby during the month of April. This exhibit commemorates *Yom HaShoah* and the memory of the Veseli family, whose members are our Garden of the Righteous honorees this year. This exhibit is on loan to us from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Museum.

In 2003, renowned photographer Norman Gershman embarked on a project to find and photograph Albanian Muslim families that had sheltered and saved Jews. By 2004, after two photographic journeys to Albania and Kosovo, he had discovered roughly 150 Muslim families that had taken part in the rescue of the Jews. During the period 1943-1945, it is believed that the people of Greater Albania saved 2,000 Jews. The Muslim religious belief in *besa*, honor, is the basis for these righteous deeds of valor. *Besa*, the ancient code of honor, requires an Albanian to endanger his own life if necessary to save the life of anyone seeking asylum. *Besa* is, to this day, the highest moral law of the region, superseding religious differences, blood feuds, and tribal traditions.

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.

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Office Closing

Erev Pesach, First Seder
Monday, April 10
Schools/Offices Close at 12:00 noon

Passover 1 & 2
Tues. & Wed., April 11 & 12
Schools/Offices Closed

Passover *Erev Yom Tov*
Sunday, April 16
Schools/Offices Close at 3:30 pm

Passover 7 & 8
Mon. & Tues., April 17 & 18
Schools/Offices Closed

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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 hope to see you there.



We are pleased to present Raif Hyseni and Merita Halili, who will perform at this year's Garden of the Righteous ceremony.

Raif Hyseni, renowned Albanian accordion player, was born in the town of Mitrovica, Republic of Kosovo. He attended elementary music school in Mitrovica, then music high school and the Academy of Performing Arts at the University of Kosovo. In 1999, he graduated from Caldwell College and earned a master in music from Montclair State University in New Jersey, where he is an adjunct professor and teaches Albanian ensemble.

Merita Halili, one of Albania's top performers, was born in the capital city of Tirane. She made her nationwide debut in 1983, at the age 16, when she sang at the National Folk Festival in the town of Gjirokaster. Soon afterward, she began to perform on Albanian radio and television and as a soloist with the State Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances. Perhaps her greatest recognition came in 1995, when she won first prize at a Gala Festival held in Tirane, in which 90 singers from the Diaspora participated. ❁

A Celebration of Doris Herman

Saying Thank You After Forty-Four Years

Sunday, May 21st 3:00pm-5:00pm, Kay Hall

Join us for an afternoon of thanks and celebration as we honor our beloved Doris Herman, teacher of the Puppies classroom of forty-four years! Featuring remarks from a generation of Gan HaYeled alumni, a lovely afternoon tea reception and an opportunity to thank Doris for her years of loving, nurturing guidance and dedication. Please register online at adasisrael.org/welovedoris. Please contact Marsha Pinson if you would like to volunteer to help organize at pinsonvine@verizon.net. **Contributions to the Doris Herman fund, which directly supports the Gan and its teachers, can be made online at adasisrael.org/welovedoris.**



Saying Goodbye...In Her Own Words

"Forty-four years ago, I walked through the doors of Adas Israel into a life of magic, laughter, love, and fulfillment. I did not know at the time that, by signing up to be a part of Gan HaYeled, literally over a thousand children would walk into my Puppy Room and into my arms.

"When I say 'magic,' I really do mean just that. It has been magical for me to see these children come into my class for the first time, not knowing if this would be a safe place when it is so hard to leave their parents and to learn to trust a stranger. It has been my privilege to earn that gift of trust, along with so much affection from the children and their parents. I know that my

work has always been enhanced by my amazing teams, especially Frances and Candy, who have been with me for so many years now. They, along with directors and colleagues, have shared the magic with me.

"Over the years, there have been many changes in the thinking about early childhood educational approaches, academic theories, and, especially, technology. When I am asked what changes I have observed in children over these many years, I reply, 'None.' None, because children are always children. While there have been vast changes in the lives of some of the parents and changes in caregiving responsibilities, the children have remained children. The developmental milestones are the same. The needs are the same. The excitement for learning is the same. The need remains the same for giving and receiving friendship and laughter and love. That is the beauty of children.

"Many years ago, when my own daughter shared her anxiety about choosing a preschool in New York for her children, and some of my Gan parents turned to me with similar early childhood concerns, I answered their requests by writing a simple how-to book, called *Doris Herman's Preschool Primer for Parents*. Helping parents proved exciting and fun! The process has come full circle now because my daughter's daughter, a junior at the University of Maryland, is interning in the Puppy Room! It is with great pride that I see her sharing the everyday delights and joys of teaching.

"As I imagine leaving the Puppy Room, I know that the magic will stay with me forever: the hugs, the smiles, the excitement of learning, the growth, the extemporaneous dances, and always the sound of the children's laughter. These were their gifts to me. Puppy magic."

—With love, Doris 🌸

PASSOVER GUIDE 2017/5777

Passover is celebrated this year from **Monday evening, April 10, through Tuesday, April 18, 2017**. The *sedarim* are held on **Monday and Tuesday nights, April 10 and 11**. All cleaning and preparations to make the house *pesachdik* (kosher for Passover) must be completed by **10:00 am on Monday, April 10**. If you have any questions, please consult with the rabbis.

The rule against *hametz* on *Pesach* applies not only to eating but to enjoyment (*hanaah*) and also involves removing all the *hametz* from one's home. No *hametz* is even allowed to be in the possession of a Jew during Passover. To facilitate this cleaning, certain rituals are part of Passover preparations (*the text for the ceremonies can be found in most Haggadot*).

- *bedikat hametz*—searching for crumbs of *hametz*
- *bittul hametz*—a formula for renouncing *hametz* inadvertently missed
- *be'ur hametz*—burning *hametz*
- *mehirat hametz*—the sale of *hametz*

Mehirat Hametz

We are not always able to destroy or remove all of our *hametz*. Doing so could be economically disastrous. So the rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale is made of all the *hametz* to a non-Jew in the community, who then sells it back to us after *Pesach*. The *hametz* is then no longer “in our possession.” This is normally done through the synagogue for the entire congregation. Please use the form in this issue of the *Chronicle* and **send it to Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith by April 7**. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food stuffs; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

Bedikat Hametz, Sunday Evening, April 9

The Search for Leaven, is a lovely home ceremony of searching for the leaven with a candle, feather, and wooden spoon, as an indication that all other preparations have been made. It is customarily done at nightfall (immediately after sunset) on the night before Passover when we search for and symbolically eliminate all remaining leavening from the house. This is an especially enjoyable ceremony for your children. The *Kol Hamira* formula for nullifying unseen *hametz*, which can be found at the beginning of many *Haggadot*, should be recited at this time and in the morning when the *hametz* is disposed of.

The search is performed in the following manner:

- Place 10 pieces of (visible size) bread in various locations throughout the house.
- Recite the following blessing: **Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivonu al biur hametz**, and then proceed (traditionally with a lighted candle, a feather, and a wooden

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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.

Register online @ adasisrael.org/Passover. ❁

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the same blessings. The commandment is to know what it means to be enslaved and to know the gift of being freed. Personally.

The story of our liberation from slavery, therefore, is not just an opportunity to identify with the plight of the oppressed because we, too, were strangers in Egypt. It is also a time to see what is sacred and holy, and to recognize the humanity in every human being. The original quote from *Exodus* is not actually “Let my people go.” The quote better translated as: “Let my people go to worship God.” The goal is to find a way to tell what is truly sacred.

We end the *seder* with the phrase, “Next Year in Jerusalem.” This is an expression of both literal and metaphoric hope. In addition to affirming our connection to our homeland, it is an expression of a vision of a Jerusalem in Messianic times—a Jerusalem of peace, a covenant of love and empathy, of placing justice and the value of human dignity and each human life as the prime locus of all that is holy.

May our *sedarim* inspire each of us and may we celebrate that journey to greater holiness in happiness, good health, and joy. ❁

Full Passover Service Schedule 2017/5777

Erev Pesach, Monday, April 10

- 7:15 am Pesach Siyyum Service
- 8:00 am Pesach Siyyum Breakfast
- 9:00 am Biur Hametz
- 6:30 pm Evening Mincha
- 7:00 pm Adas Community Passover Seder

Day 1, Tuesday, April 11

- 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Pesach Service; joined by the Smith
- 12:00 pm Congregational Pesach Kiddush
- 12:45 pm Mincha Service

Day 2, Wednesday, April 12

- 9:30 am Combined Smith and TEM Pesach Service
- 12:00 pm Congregational Pesach Kiddush
- 12:45 pm Mincha Service

Day 3, Thursday, April 13

- 7:30 am Morning Minyan
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan

Day 4, Friday, April 14

- 7:30 am Morning Minyan
- 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg
- 6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Pesach/ Shabbat Service
- 6:30 pm Return Again Service
- 7:00 pm TEM Pesach Dinner

Day 5, Saturday, April 15

- 9:30 am Shabbat Service
- 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan
- 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service
- 11:00 am Tot Shabbat
- 11:00 am Netivot
- 12:00 am Congregational Kiddush
- 12:00 am Havurah Shabbat Kiddush
- 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha Service

Day 6, Sunday, April 16

- 9:00 am Morning Minyan
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan

Day 7, Monday, April 17

- 9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Pesach Service
- 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush
- 12:45 pm Mincha Service

Day 8, Tuesday, April 18

- 9:15 am Pesach Morning Service; Yizkor at 11 am
- 9:15 am TEM Pesach Service; Yizkor
- 12:00 pm Congregational Pesach Kiddush
- 12:45 pm Mincha Service

spoon) to look for any leaven that can be found.

- c. The pieces of bread should be gathered in a container, such as a small cardboard box.
- d. After the 10 pieces, and whatever other leavened food is gathered, recite the following: **"All manner of leaven that is in my possession which I have not seen or have not removed, or have no knowledge of, shall be null and disowned as the dust of the earth."**

Siyyum Bechorim, Monday Morning, April 10

The fast of the firstborn is a time-honored custom that recognizes God's role in history. On the day before Passover, it is customary for the firstborn to fast as an expression of gratitude that he or she, unlike the Egyptians' first born, was saved. However, if the firstborn attends a *siyyum* (a public completion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud) on the morning before Passover, he or she is exempted from fasting and may eat. Thus any firstborn who participates in the ceremony may eat. This is known as the *Siyyum Bechorim*. As do many congregations, we hold a *siyyum* (the celebration of concluding a section of the *Mishna*). Our *siyyum* takes place as part of the morning minyan on **Monday morning, April 10, at 7:15 am.**

Seudat Mitzvah

This small meal follows, and a firstborn who is present may eat and need not fast that day (following the *Siyyum Bechorim*).

Biur Hametz, Monday Morning, April 10

This day should be treated as an ordinary *Erev Pesach* in regard to *biur hametz* (removal of *hametz*). The burning of the *hametz* should be completed **by about 10:00 am.** The stove should be kashered for *Pesach*. All cooking should be done in *Pesach* pots, and only *Pesach* utensils should be used. Food required for the first *seder* should be cooked at this time.

Burn your *hametz* at Adas Israel on **Monday, April 10, at 9:00 am** in the Adas Israel parking lot.

First Seder, Monday Night, April 10

Tradition encourages that the *seder* not begin until after sundown.

CANDLELIGHTING TIMES:

Monday, April 10: Light candles at 7:23 pm

Tuesday, April 11: Light candles *after* 8:23 pm

Sunday, April 16: Light candles at 7:29 pm

Monday, April 17: Light candles at 8:29 pm

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

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

The blessings recited are:

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

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

And on the first night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.
Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'hecheyanu, v'kee'manu, v'heegee anu lazman hazeh. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season. ❀





From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

The story of *Pesach* is a story of journeys. Both personal and collective, the *Pesach* narrative is one of freedom, community and identity. And as much as these themes are rooted in our tradition, they are also compelling elements of stories in our modern world. There is a Sephardic custom at the *seder* in which the participants reenact the exodus from Egypt. The *afikomen* is

tied in a large napkin and is handed to a child who holds it over his or her shoulder, as if carrying a sack of something.

The child is then asked three questions, each of which has a scripted response. "From where have you come?" "I have come from Egypt." "Where are you going?" "I am going to Jerusalem." And, finally, "What are you taking with you?" at which point the child points to the sack of *matzah* on his or her shoulder. This is often reenacted all the way around the table.

Last year I had the privilege of being at a big and diverse *seder* where folks brought their own traditions to share with the group. A dear colleague and friend brought this one from his Syrian family, but along with the scripted responses, of "Egypt, Jerusalem, and *matzah*" he asked each of us to answer each question in a personal, modern way as we reflected on where we were in the context of our own lives. So this year, I extend the invitation to you. As we head into *Pesach*, ask yourselves, and each other, the following questions.

1. From where have you come? Where have you been over the past year, physically, spiritually, emotionally? What do you see when you look back over your shoulder?
2. Where are you going? What do you see ahead of you? What are your hopes, intentions, and goals for your next steps?
3. What are you taking with you? What are you carrying with you, literally or figuratively, as you move forward? Which relationships, skills, and tools will help you get there?

As we embrace the rituals of the season, both those that we are familiar with and those that are new for us, let it be an opportunity for us to use our tradition to take stock of our own journeys and to look ahead.



Dayenu

By Yoni Buckman, Youth & Family Educator

Would it have been enough for God to split the sea but not lead us through on dry land? Would it have been enough for God to lead us to Mount Sinai but not give us the Torah? Would it have been enough for God to free us from Egyptian slavery but not grant us the right to self-determination in the Land of Israel?

The famous Passover song, *Dayenu* (It would have been enough for us...), recounts 15 gracious acts of God in a tone that, today, almost rings of comedic irony. But what *Dayenu* lacks in subtlety, it makes up for in complexity. On one hand, *Dayenu* acknowledges that we appreciate every single gift from God—provoking a declaration of satisfaction and gratitude. On the other hand, *Dayenu*

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April Calendar Children's Shabbat Services

- 1 Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Junior Congregation
- 8 Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Junior Congregation
- 15 Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Junior Congregation
- 22 Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Junior Congregation
- 29 Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Junior Congregation

The Sale of Hametz

During Passover, it is technically forbidden to have any *hametz* in our possession. Because we cannot finish it all, and it



is improper to destroy usable food, the rabbis provided for a symbolic sale of all the *hametz* to a non-Jew who then "sells" it back to us after *Pesach*. The *hametz* is then no longer "in our possession." This includes food, dishes, and utensils, which are locked away in storage for the duration of the festival. This year the sale can be done through April 7.

Funds collected through donations and through the "sale" of *hametz* are used for charitable purposes and to help provide Passover food for those who otherwise might have none. This legal procedure technically transfers ownership of *hametz* that remains in our pantry during the festival. Technical ownership reverts to us when the festival is over.

Please use this form and send it to Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith (Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org) by April 7.

Dear Hazzan Goldsmith:
Please sell our *hametz* so that we have fulfilled our obligation of religious ownership and accept this contribution so that others are assured of a *seder*. (Please print:)

Name _____

Home Address _____

Business Address _____

Shabbat Scholar Judith Hauptman Saturday, April 22



The Lifelong Learning Committee is presenting a project on Saturday, April 22, at 1:00 pm: a *Shabbat* Scholar class, generously underwritten by the Mendelson Family Learning

Fund, that will enable the congregation to continue learning from the leading scholars in the Jewish community.

Judith Hauptman is the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and her scholarly research focuses on two areas. The first is unraveling the mystery of how the Talmud came into being, and the second involves investigating women's roles in Judaic thought.

Shortly after her ordination as a rabbi, Dr. Hauptman founded Ohel Ayalah, an outreach project to disaffected young Jews, named in memory of her mother. Since 2004, Ohel Ayalah has run free, walk-in High Holy Days services and Passover *sederim* for all ages on the first night and for 20s and 30s on the second. Hundreds of people attend these events each year. ✨

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plays with absurd hypotheticals—evoking the feeling that we should not have been content. So which is it?

Dayenu holds within its stanzas an explicit lesson and an implicit charge. As the words of *Dayenu* imply, we should be grateful; but as the feelings they elicit inspire, we should also work continually toward a better tomorrow. We should appreciate the blessings we have in our lives, and we should continue to spread love throughout our world. —Chag Sameach!

The Shalom Learning Value of the Month *Koach HaDibbur—The Power of Speech*

Appreciating the power of speech is a foundational value in Jewish culture. It is already at play in our first stories about the beginning of the world, with God creating through speaking (“Let there be . . . and there was . . .”). When the first human was created and imbued with the divine spark, our commentators translate the phrase “spirit of life” as “power of speech.” That power, with the potential for good and evil, has been the cause of human tragedy and triumph ever since.

We study the power of speech so we may distinguish between the way Abraham argues with God (righteous *chutzpah*) versus how Haman manipulates the king and policy. We want our people to reject *l'shon hara*, evil speech and slander, and, instead, be the children of the prophets, speaking truth to power and defending the voice of the vulnerable. We emphasize being a community that strives to repair the world. But a prerequisite for world repair (*tikkun olam*) is self-repair (*tikkun atzmi*), and the most important tool for that repair is carefully considered words. In recognizing and exercising the power of words, Jews are countercultural: We do not accept that “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me.” We study this unit to be able to distinguish between words that hurt and words that heal and to practice making good choices of when to speak and when to remain silent. Through speech the world was created, and through speech the world can be perfected. ✨

JMCW Introduces the Kirtan Rabbi, Rabbi Andrew Hahn Learn, Chant and Meditate: A Jewish Experience of Music and Silence

Tuesday, April 4 from 7:30-9:00 pm

Please register online at adasisrael.org/jmcw

In advance of his upcoming, full Shabbaton visit over the weekend of May 12th, we welcome Rabbi Andrew Hahn, Ph.D., the *Kirtan Rabbi*, who will lead us in a Tuesday JMCW Meditation sit. The theme of the evening – which we will take on in text and then embody in music and silence – will be: “Why we meditate as Jews.” The May visit will expand upon this theme, so come and get a jump start!



Rabbi Andrew Hahn, Ph.D. (affectionately: Reb Drew), is known as both the Kirtan Rabbi and — depending upon which phone booth he exits — also as the Tai Chi Rabbi. He has pioneered Kirtan in the Jewish world, criss-crossing the globe to offer communal call-and-response chant concerts and meditation seminars. He has been teaching tai chi and related arts for decades. In his workshops, he seamlessly combines chant, movement, meditation and text study into a positive, holistic experience. He is resident faculty at *Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership* in New York, where he has founded the not-for-profit *Kirtan Rabbi Prayer Initiative*. He also served as visiting rabbi for *Metivta: a center for contemplative Judaism in Los Angeles*. Rabbi Hahn has three musical CDs: *Kirtan Rabbi: Live!*, *Achat Sha'alti*, *Nondual* and a beloved single, *Shiviti*. His forth album, *Hallel*, is to be released in 2017. For more information: KirtanRabbi.com ✨



Love & Hate

The Essential Emotional Muscles, Fully Exposed

“Love your neighbor as you love yourself” (*Leviticus 19:18*). We first read this teaching in the Torah, but the rabbis felt it was too important to keep these words hidden in the middle of the Torah text. This phrase appears as part of *Birchot Hashachar*, the daily morning blessings, to remind us that it is hard to return to love—but we must. We fight, we cheat, we lie, and sometimes we hate;

it’s part of being human. But love is a unique tool—a tool that can erase shame and vanish the shells that build up around the heart. In this month’s learning, we will explore the very human emotion of hate, and its antidote, love. We will uncover the tools for living more connected, holy lives. *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, APRIL 4 @ 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: Dr. Elana Stein Hain

TUESDAY, APRIL 25 @ 7:30 PM

Join us as our April scholar, Dr. Elana Stein Hain, teaches on this month’s topic Love & Hate. Dr. Elana Stein Hain is a well-regarded scholar who supports female leaders in the Orthodox Jewish community.

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



The Text

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 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.

Ongoing Learning:



Jewish Values: Israel & Palestine

“iEngage” Series with Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Curriculum from the Shalom Hartman Institute

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 @ 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

APRIL 1, Rabbi Steinlauf

APRIL 8, Rabbi Holtzblatt

APRIL 22, Guest Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

APRIL 29, Rabbi Alexander

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



Friday Parsha Study with Rabbis Holtzblatt & 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 to view upcoming broadcast times and recently archived videos. ✨

lifecycle

Milestones

Birth

Gabriel Chanan, son of Rachel and Henry Jinich, born February 15.

We wish our newborn and his family strength, good health, and joy.

Wedding

Rachel Slone and Jason Babbitt were married by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, March 4.

We wish the newlyweds and their families a hearty mazal tov.

B'nai Mitzvah



Lincoln Aftergood, April 1

Lincoln, son of Steven and Kimberly Aftergood, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. He began his Jewish education in Gan HaYeled and graduated from the Jewish Primary Day School. He looks forward to celebrating his *bar mitzvah* with friends from school and Camp Ramah, and with members of the Aftergood and Bejarano

families from California. For his *mitzvah* project, Lincoln is volunteering at DC Central Kitchen, helping to prepare food for people in need.



Micah Berger, April 8

Micah, son of Kimby and Lawrence Berger, is a seventh grader at Sidwell Friends School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and graduated from JPDS-NC. He celebrates his *bar mitzvah* with his two brothers, Aden and Ollie, his grandparents, and the rest of his extended family and friends.



Zoe Evans, April 8 (Mincha)

Zoe, daughter of Laura Rozen and Michael Evans, is a seventh grader at Sheridan School in Washington DC. She is pleased to celebrate her *bat mitzvah* with her sister, Abby; her grandparents, Larry and Beverley Evans, of Cambridge, MA, and Jay and Sandra Rozen, of Kansas City; and her aunts, uncles, and cousins, and friends. She has been a student

at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since third grade. For her *mitzvah* project, Zoe is raising money for children at the Gang orphanage in China.



Joshua Altman, April 22

Joshua is in the seventh grade at the Field School. He previously lived in London, where at age eight he became the UK's youngest-ever chess master. His passion for chess has enabled him to travel to many different countries while competing for England, and to make friends across the board, through sharing a common pursuit and learning

to respect one another's differences. Joshua has been engaged in helping others—through community outreach, campaign canvassing, and marching in support of women's rights and AIDS research. For his *mitzvah* project, Joshua is organizing an Earth Day cleanup along the Anacostia River with the Earth Conservation Corps. Joshua celebrates his *bar mitzvah* with his parents, Hillary and Andrew Altman; his brother, Eli; his grandfather, Paul Silverman; grandmother, Linda Rubin; and step-grandmother, Rita Altman.



Sophie Anne Hare,

April 29

Sophie, the oldest child of Kate Sullivan Hare and Neil Hare, is a seventh grader at Hardy Middle School in Washington. She shares her *bat mitzvah* with her

siblings, Elizabeth and Jack, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is especially proud to be able to share this occasion with her grandparents, Isadora and Philip Hare, of Rockville. Sophie began her Jewish education as a Butterfly at Gan HaYeled, and she is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. A true bookworm, Sophie is organizing a drive to collect new books for children and teenagers facing extended hospital stays through the Hope for Henry Foundation.

Member in the News

Ezra Meyer, son of Lauren Strauss and Jonathan Meyer, was recently elected national vice president of Young Judaea, the Zionist youth movement, for academic year 2017–18. His term begins this summer (for his senior year of high school). This year he is president of the region encompassing DC, MD, NOVA, part of NC, DE, etc. Ezra is currently a junior at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Barbara Chasen Miller

Raquel Frenk

Toni Ritzenberg

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Michael Ain, brother of Sandy Ain

Arnold Rothstein, Father of Sheri Brown

Sandra Kaufman, wife of Jacob Kaufman

Dr. Miguel Leibovich, father of Mark Leibovich

Vera Leifman, mother of Michael Leifman

Pearl Gluck Nathan, mother of Joan Nathan

Edgar Gene Roggen, husband of Shirley Roggen

Gloria Wolfson, grandmother of Ben Temchine

Rita Atlas Goldstein Wolfson, sister of Simon Atlas

Life Cycle Information

When Death Occurs

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

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW)

Whatever it is that constricts you or enslaves you, you have to ask, "What is holding me back, what is my inner slavery? What keeps me from being in touch with the deepest parts of myself, with the presence of God in myself, and how do I liberate myself from it?"
—Rabbi Arthur Green

Passover is the Festival of Freedom where we are commanded to taste the Bread of Affliction. Each year, as we recite the *maggid*, the story of our liberation, we are asked to experience this retelling as if we ourselves were released from oppression in *Mitzrayim*. *Mitzrayim*, the Hebrew word for Egypt, means narrow straits—a place of constriction. Passover challenges us to ask how we live in narrowness and how our own *Mitzrayim* can keep us captive. In her talk, "In and Out of Egypt," the celebrated meditation teacher Sylvia Boorstein says her "mind gets stuck in narrow places all the time." And while our Passover story recounts just one hurried exodus from Egypt, she goes "out from Egypt about ten times a day," when constricted by her own thoughts. She wonders whether the journey to the holy land takes 40 years because the mind so often returns to those narrow places. We welcome you to join JMCW in prayer, song, meditation, and movement as we expand our narrowness and reach toward liberation.

'Return Again' Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt and Elie Greenberg, Friday, April 14, 6:30 pm

This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! In the style of our innovative outdoor *Kol Nidre* service, join our reflective journey into the *Shabbat* experience with a musical and spiritual excursion into prayer and song. Please note, due to Passover, there will be no dinner following the Return Again Service.

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!

Note that Tuesday, April 4, will be a special meditation session led by Rabbi Andrew Hahn, the Kirtan Rabbi.

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

Join us for the final session of this five-week mini-series, Sunday 4/2, 11:00 am–12:15 pm

Participants will become familiar with key *Kabbalistic* ideas and will discover, through integrated Yogic and *Kabbalistic* practices, the benefits of melding these two traditions.

Embodied Devotion Workshop with Jess Lazar Sunday, May 7, 10:30 am–12:00 noon

Judaism interweaves practice and contemplation, and we are encouraged to question, analyze, and embody our beliefs. Yoga combines these same elements of embodied devotion, enabling us to access the divine spirit, or *neshama*, in each of us.

Pen & Pose Workshop with Yael Flusberg Sunday, May 14, 10:30 am–12:00 noon

We are bringing back this innovative workshop for a unique Mother's Day practice, which intersperses yoga with writing exercises to encourage participants to uncover their innermost selves. Dress comfortably and bring your favorite notebook and a pen!



Weekly Yoga:

**Moving Meditation,
Yogic Flow**

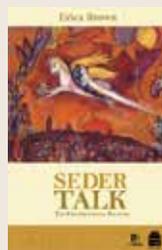
Sundays, 11:00 am–12:15 pm

**Moving Meditation,
Vinyasa Flow**

Wednesdays, 7:30–8:45 pm

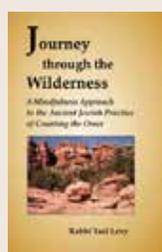
Check for updates and additional information on yoga offerings at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/. ✨

JMCW Recommends . . .



Seder Talk: The Conversational Haggada by Dr. Erica Brown

This book has two parts. Opening left to right, you will find a beautiful commentary on the text of the *Haggada*. And opening right to left further expands the meaning of Passover with eight short essays, one for each night of the holiday. Dr. Brown includes art, poetry, stories, old rabbinic texts, and contemporary wisdom to fully engage the reader and participants in a mindful and intentional conversation on the multiple layers of Passover. *Seder Talk* is available in the Adas Library.



Journey Through the Wilderness: A Mindfulness Approach to the Ancient Jewish Practice of Counting the Omer by Rabbi Yael Levy

During the 49 days between Passover and *Shavuot*, we have the Jewish practice of Counting the *Omer*. In this illustrated short volume, Rabbi Yael Levy provides a mindful approach to this ancient tradition. She combines the wisdom from Psalms and Jewish mysticism with reflections on what it means to experience and count each day. The blessings for Counting the *Omer* are included in both Hebrew and English.

Explore the Adas Library for many 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) 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. Watch this space each month to follow these JMCW offerings. Visit our Adas web page at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/, where you can also subscribe to our e-newsletter and join our Facebook group: JMCW @ Adas Israel. ✨

We can be redeemed only to the extent to which we see ourselves. —Martin Buber

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 28 Adar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners 10:30 am Hebrew Course: Intermediate 10:45 am Trope Class 11:00 am Yoga & Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	27 29 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	28 1 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	29 2 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Social Justice 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 8:15 pm JSC Class	30 3 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	31 4 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander 7:13 pm	1 PARSHAT TERUMAH 5 Nisan 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class Parshat Vayikra 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf; Bar Mitzvah: Lincoln Aftergood 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 8:13 pm Havdalah
2 6 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Rabbi Steinlauf's iEngage Class 10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners 11:00 am Yoga & Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3 7 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	4 8 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC: Open Beit Midrash 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	5 9 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Closing Class 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 8:15 pm JSC Class	6 10 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	7 11 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Steinlauf 6:30 pm Shir Delight Service 7:30 pm Shir Delight Kosher for Pesach wine tasting 7:19 pm	8 PARSHAT TETZAVEH/SHABBAT ZACHOR 12 Nisan 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class Parshat Tzav/Shabbat HaGadol 9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bar Mitzvah: Micah Berger 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha with Rabbi Alexander; Bat Mitzvah: Zoe Evans 1:15 pm MakomDC: Shabbat Learning 8:19 pm Havdalah
9 13 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am JMCW Class: Wise Aging 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	10 EREV PESACH 14 Nisan 7:15 am Morning Minyan: Siyyum 9:00 am Biur Hametz 6:30 pm Mincha 7:00 pm Adas Community Passover Seder 7:22 pm	11 PESACH DAY 1 15 Nisan 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, joined by the Smith Sanctuary Service 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 12:45 pm Mincha 8:23 pm	12 PESACH DAY 2 16 Nisan 9:30 am Combined Smith/TEM Pesach Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 12:45 pm Mincha	13 CHOL HAMOED PESACH 17 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	14 CHOL HAMOED PESACH 18 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt 6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 7:30 pm TEM Pesach Dinner 7:26 pm	15 SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED PESACH 19 Nisan 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha 8:26 pm Havdalah
16 EREV YOM TOV 20 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Mincha with Hazzan Goldsmith 7:28 pm	17 PESACH DAY 7 21 Nisan 9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Pesach Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 12:45 pm Mincha 8:29 pm	18 PESACH DAY 8 22 Nisan 9:15 am Pesach Service; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf; Yizkor at 11 am 9:15 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 12:45 pm Mincha	19 23 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	20 24 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	21 25 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Alexander 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown 7:33 pm	22 PARSHAT SHEMINI 26 Nisan 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service/ Shabbat in Harmony with Robyn Helzner; Bar Mitzvah: Joshua Altman; Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 8:33 pm Havdalah
23 27 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan Yom HaShoah 10:30 am Garden of the Righteous Ceremony, followed by Reception 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	24 28 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	25 29 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Weekday Torah with Sisterhood 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC Speaker: Dr. Elana Hain 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	26 ROSH CHODESH NISAN 30 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Nisan Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm YP Kavanah Experience 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:00 pm Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation: Bonnie Lewin Memorial Lecture 8:15 pm JSC Class	27 ROSH CHODESH NISAN 1 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Nisan Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	28 2 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary 5:30 pm Chaggigat HaSiddur Ceremony with Rabbi Steinlauf, Rabbi Rosenbaum & Cantor Brown 6:00 pm L'Dor VaDor for 3rd Grade with Rabbi Steinlauf, Rabbi Rosenbaum & Cantor Brown 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander 7:00 pm L'Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner 7:40 pm	29 PARSHAT VAYIKRA 3 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class Parshat Tazria/Metzora 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bat Mitzvah: Sophie Hare; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:30 am Shabbat Awakening with Rabbis Alexander and Holtzblatt 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Junior Congregation 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 8:40 pm Havdalah
30 4 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat: Beyond the Shoah 11:00 am Yogic Flow 3:00 pm Sisterhood: Coloring, Cheese, & Wine 6:00 pm Evening Minyan						

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

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

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

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

Havurah Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A *kiddush* follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

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

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

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

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

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

The first seder is Monday, April 10. Come in and check out our seder plates, haggadahs, children's books, matzah baskets and covers, and toys and games.



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

**Watch for a special announcement
about the month of May!**

sisterhoodnews



On behalf of the Board and officers of Adas Israel Sisterhood, co-presidents Marcy Feuerstein and Miriam Rosenthal wish you a chag sameach. May you experience freedom this Pesach season and enjoy sederim spent in the company of family, friends, and new acquaintances.

On February 5, co-managers Jean Bernard and Susan Winberg honored the volunteers of the Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop for their continued service. The women enjoyed a lox-and-bagel brunch and socialized with one another. Pictured from left to right are Susan Winberg (co-manager), Nancy Weiss, Myra Promisel, Jean Bernard (co-manager), Leah Chanin, Cathy Slesinger (our newest volunteer), Marian Fox, and Bunny Weinstein. Not pictured are Diane Keller (co-manager), Ruth Ernst, and Susan Wedlan. Photo by Larry Bernard.



Weekday Torah with Sisterhood to Feature Rabbi Elianna Yolkut, April 25

Have you ever wondered how the rabbis imagined the experience of Mount Sinai? Was God angry that Moses broke the tablets? What were the people really doing during the experience? Please join *Weekday Torah with Sisterhood* in the Biran Beit Midrash on Tuesday, April 25, at 10:00 am, when **Rabbi Elianna Yolkut** will explore a radical interpretation of revelation and what it might teach us about our own relationship to God and Torah.

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. Sessions 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, MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com.

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood will meet on April 25, May 16, and June 2017.



An Afternoon with Artist Arlette Jassel, April 30

Please join us for *An Afternoon with Arlette Jassel*, artist and Sisterhood member, who will present *Daily Dance*, her newly published adult coloring book, on Sunday, April 30, 3:00 to 5:00 pm in Fungler Hall. Wine, cheese, and coloring together! Registration deadline is April

continued on page 15

Sisterhood News continued from page 14

21 to allow time to obtain sufficient copies of Arlette's book. RSVP to Susan Winberg, susanw1608@verizon.net or 301-656-7766. The cost is \$10 per person. You may pay in person at the door; the cost includes your copy of Arlette's new book.

Arlette notes that, in her experience, adult children and their older parents enjoy coloring together. This is something to keep in mind.



Mah Jongg Group Continues! Now Every Thursday at 1:00 pm in Sisterhood Hall.

Every Thursday (except April 13), Sisterhood plays mah jongg at 1:00 pm in Sisterhood Hall. Bring your National Mahjongg League card (\$8, 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.

We thank Chuck and Lesley Rich for donating two card tables to the synagogue, which the mah jongg players will put to good use.

In honor of Sisterhood Shabbat and Dr. Kalmanofsky, Sisterhood has purchased a copy of Dr. Kalmanofsky's recent work, Gender-Play in the Hebrew Bible (Routledge, 2017), for the Rose Ruth Freudberg Memorial Sisterhood Library.



More Sisterhood programs in the works!

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

Save the Date Sisterhood Closing Event with Brunch

Sunday, June 11, at 11:00 am

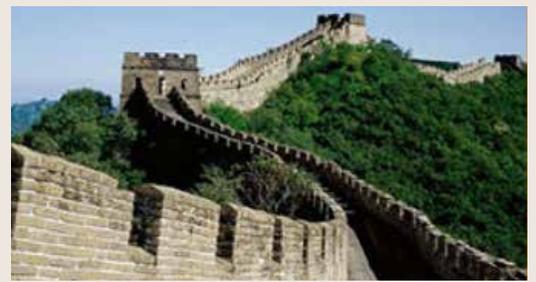
A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
CONVENTION 2017

Get ready for four exciting days in July!

Plan to attend the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Conference 2017, to be held at Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA, on July 23–26. Celebrate Women's League's Centennial! Start a new *Chesed* Project! There will be lots more to learn and enjoy. Register for the event at www.wlcj.org. ❁



Jewish Heritage Tour of China October 17–November 1

Join Robyn Helzner on a Jewish Heritage Tour of China! Explore historic Jewish sites and visit top Chinese attractions in Beijing, Shanghai, Xian, and Hong Kong. Celebrate *Shabbat* with Progressive communities in Beijing and Shanghai. Register by March 17 and receive a \$200 per person early bird discount! For more information, visit www.helzner.com or e-mail robyn@helzner.com.

From the President continued from page 2

Members will be offered the opportunity to review them in advance. Other reviews taking place include the Budget for 2017-18 and management of our Investment portfolio. As meaningful as our many services are, the Religious Practices Committee in collaboration with Rabbi Steinlauf and his clergy team continue to assess and consider ways to ensure they continue to meet our diverse community's spiritual needs. They are currently studying the Daily *Minyan* as they explore opportunities to invigorate it and draw more substantial participation in order to meet congregants' needs to say *Kaddish*.

Adas Israel Congregation, like all of us, benefits from thoughtful self-reflection and forward thinking. May your Passover *Seders* be filled with thoughtful reflection, good food, friendship and love. ❁

Lev Ba-Lev: Heart to Heart



A new idea is brewing at Adas Israel. The Adas Hesed and Adas Social Action committees have come together to form a love brigade, called **Lev Ba-Lev** (Heart to Heart).

It is hard not to notice recent uptick of hatred and bigotry in the public sphere. We are seeing increasing incidents of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and more. As these cowardly acts proliferate, we as a Jewish community feel that there must be something we can offer. Well . . . there is! Love. *Hesed*. Kindness.

With *Lev Ba-Lev*, when an incident occurs that calls for us to do something, we will have a group ready to send some love, bring some love, offer some love—in person, via email, or by letters. It could be that we write letters to the JCCs that experienced bomb threats. Or we might send thank-you notes to the lawyers who are helping immigrants at airports. Or maybe we might take food or just lend our presence to a church or mosque that experienced a hate crime. We want to stand heart-to-heart with love and kindness with those who have witnessed or suffered from hatred or bigotry.

The *Lev Ba-Lev* initial meeting and training took place on February 12. Social workers from the Jewish Social Service Agency guided the group to understand how to respond appropriately and sensitively to various situations its members might encounter and how to best show our love.

We wish we lived in a world in which this group was unnecessary group, but until then, and as we work to create that world, we will offer as much love as we can muster for those in need of it.

If you are interested in participating in *Lev Ba-Lev*, please send your name to hessed@adasisrael.org.

tikkunolam

Social Action Team Updates



Refugee Response Team Expands Work

Fifty members of the Adas Israel Refugee Response Team met in late February to plan our ever-expanding efforts to respond to the refugee crisis. We continue our partnerships with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and HIAS and have begun working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Adas members Becca Cahill and Alex Levy led the team that furnished an apartment for a family of seven from Afghanistan who arrived in early March through LSS.

We continue to wait, hoping that LSS will match us with an incoming family to support more fully and for a year. To support families that are already living here, we've launched a partnership with IRC, through which Adas members will have the chance to work directly with families in a mentorship role. We will also work with individuals and families through IRC's offices in Silver Spring, providing support for job development and other immediate needs. Last, we continue our long-standing partnership with HIAS. On March 29, Adas Israel will host a community-wide Jewish Action for Refugees event. Look for more details in @Adas closer to the date.

To learn more about our work with LSS supporting newly arriving/arrived refugees, contact Amy Golen, agolen@verizon.net.

- To learn more about our work with IRC and refugees who are already living in our community, contact Liana Brooks-Rubin, liana@eventidewellness.com.
- To learn more about our work with HIAS, for general questions, or to make a contribution to help refugees in our community, contact Dan Aladjem, dan.aladjem@gmail.com.
- To be added to the RRT e-mail list, contact Amy Golen, agolen@verizon.net.

Donations may be made by check to Adas Israel with "Refugee Fund" in the memo line or online via the Adas website. If you donate online, you will be asked to choose to which fund you wish to contribute; please write "Refugee Fund" in the space for "Other Fund."

Racial Justice Working Team News

On February 5, the Racial Justice Working Group hosted a screening and discussion of the thought-provoking documentary, *13th*, which explores the history of racial inequality and incarceration in the United States. A



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crowd of 60 people gathered to learn and discuss how ratification of the 13th amendment in 1865 systematically opened an exploitable loophole in the clause; this converted the legal business model of slavery into an equally legal methodology of punishment for criminals that overwhelmingly affected African American men during the post-slavery era.

The dehumanization of these new laws and codes more than hints at bias and has resulted in a troubling proportion of people of color who remain in jail because they are too poor to post bail and in innocent people too scared to testify in trials for fear of retaliatory actions against them accepting plea bargains. The key message in this film was clear: under this new code of law, one in four African American males will serve prison time at some point in their lifetimes.

During the discussion following the film, everyone took the time to reflect on the mental and emotional impact of what they had seen. Some were shocked by what they had learned, while others reflected on their own experiences in the civil rights era and were now inspired to heed the call to action.

We were all left with the question, "What does it truly mean to be 'free' in this country?" We in the Racial Justice Working Group are striving to answer this question one Step, one Person, one Community at a time.

Climate Action's February Tu B'Shevat Event

Not your typical Tu B'Shevat! On February 12, Rabbi Alexander addressed about 50 people in a learning session to think critically about how Torah (and the guidance of sages recorded in the Talmud) informs a modern question: Are we responsible for the damage and injuries that result from pollution? After the learning, the crowd enjoyed fruits and nuts more typical of Tu B'Shevat and heard from Elizabeth Bennet of Fruit Cycle, a local firm that uses fresh fruit that large groceries refuse to purchase because it is oddly shaped or otherwise "disfigured."

Rabbi Alexander led the group to analyze scenarios presented in the Talmud in which a person is (or in some cases, is not) responsible for damage that results from actions, even if the damage might be difficult to foresee. The question of causation and damages is familiar to lawyers, but the Talmud's answers might not be. It informs the question posed by the Climate Action team: Are we responsible for the damage that occurs from pollution created by our own activities? Is the damage foreseeable? Adas community thanks Elena Alschuler, Sara Eckert, and Steve Swern for organizing the event.

Gun Violence Prevention Team Updates

The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) is refocusing its efforts on gun violence prevention with "listening" meetings, particularly in wards 7 and 8, to learn about issues of particular concern to residents. While these meetings won't necessarily focus solely on gun violence, it is likely to be a

topic in many. We will keep our team updated as these proceed.

- The gun violence prevention team is teaming up with Gan HaYeled to bring training and information on gun safety to staff and parents. This spring, we're offering training for parents from the Moms Demand Action BeSMART campaign. The presentation focuses on kids, guns, and safety and includes information on how to store guns safely, how to model responsible behavior, and how to talk to other families about guns in the home. Parents who are interested in more information or want to attend the training should e-mail Leilah Mooney Joseph (Imooneyjoseph@gmail.com) for more information.
- The DC Faith-Based Gun Violence Prevention Network is a listserv of area faith-based organizations that compiles meetings and actions of interest to the gun violence prevention community. We will be posting all upcoming events on the *Adas Tikkun Olam* web page.
- Ward 8 Councilman Trayon White recently introduced the Safe Way Home Act of 2017 to provide grants to fund violence intervention outreach and community programming in PSAs with high levels of violent crime; to expand on-the-job training programs for adults; and to establish community outreach teams to ensure safe passage to and from schools in PSAs with high levels of violent crime.
- Lois Fingerhut will be participating in the Metropolitan Police Department's Community Engagement Academy (see <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/community-engagement-academy>), an initiative allowing community members to learn firsthand about police operations. Please email Lois Fingerhut (Loisafingerhut@gmail.com) with any questions.



Poverty/Homelessness/Housing Team News

Adas Israel members are back at SOME, this time, preparing and serving a meal on Presidents' Day. ✨

Kol HaMayim

Did you know that in addition to welcoming more than 450 immersions a year at our *mikvah*, another 400+ people visit the *mikvah* for educational programs? We offer engaging and age-appropriate learning experiences to different kinds of groups nearly every week. Here is a sample of the events that have happened here in the last three months.

- 7th–8th graders from Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax
- 6th graders from Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church
- 8th graders from Temple Sinai in DC
- 10th graders from Congregation Beth El in Bethesda
- 9th graders from Maalot (Adas Israel) in DC
- Jewish Welcoming Workshop from Sixth & I in DC
- Women's Torah Study Group from B'nai Shalom in Fairfax
- 4th graders from Or Chadash in Damascus
- 4th graders from Temple Shalom in Silver Spring
- Sisterhood from B'nai Israel in Rockville
- 20somethings from Moishe House of MoCo
- Sisterhood from B'nai Tzedek in Potomac
- 30somethings from At The Well (Rosh Hodesh Circle) in DC

The content and presentation of these programs are truly unique. We always frame the conversation around the role of water in Jewish texts and traditions. In our ongoing efforts to demystify the *mikvah*, there is always a person in a bathing suit demonstrating what the ritual of immersion looks, sounds, and feels like. The participants learn about traditional *mikvah* use, watch the demonstration, explore ceremonies for creative *mikvah* use, and brainstorm about how this is relevant in a modern context. Sometimes we incorporate a text study from *Beresheet* about the role of water in the *Briat haOlam*—the Creation of the World. Sometimes we discuss *mikvah* as a practice in mindfulness, other times we discuss it in the context of life-cycle events, illness and healing, or Jewish holidays.

It's really wonderful to see our *Mikvah* Guides take on an educator role and lead these events. A special shout-out to Janet Scribner, Leah Chanin, Rachel Merritt, and Lauren Markoe, all of whom have become *Mikvah* Educators, and to the demonstrators who generously allow visitors to witness their immersions. You are all engaged in the holy work of translating history and traditions into a modern understanding of *mikvah* for future generations of Jews. ✨

Life Cycle Information continued from page 10

Bereavement Committee

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

tikkunolam continued from page 17

Anne Frank House Update



ANNE FRANK HOUSE

and staff of Adas Israel for their continuing special support to Anne Frank House as well as the Religious School for making our miniwalks such great successes year after year.

These Adas Israel members have made contributions of \$250 or more in 2016 to Anne Frank House: Rhoda Baruch, Catherine Bendor & Shelley Klein, Eric Bensky & Amber Cottle, Sander Bieber & Linda Rosenzweig, Alan & Nancy Taylor Bubes, Sharon L. Burka, Robert & Maria Burka, Frances & Sharon Burka, Sue Ducat & Stan Cohen, Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz, Marian Fox & Stuart Horn, Jonathan & Laura Ginns, Sylvia Greenberg, Edward & Jeri Greenberg, Neal & Ava Gross, Kenneth Heitner & Rhoda Ritzenberg, Judith Herr & Robert Samuelson, Eddie & Arthur Hessel, Kenneth & Kathy Ingber, Hazel Keimowitz, June Kress, Martin Lewin, Alan Lipsitz, Matthew Mariani & Meredith Josephs, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Sandy & Lydia Parnes, Edna & Larry Povich, Jeffrey & Patricia Pukatch, Seth Rosenthal & Stephanie Robinson, Steven & Lisa Schwat, Daniel & Julia Small, Ari Strauss, James Horwitz & Denyse Tannenbaum, Sandy & Beth Unger, and Gail & Robert Wilensky.

Anne Frank House welcomes new Adas Israel contributors in our efforts to support our current residents and to respond to the many requests we receive from area agencies to take in new residents. Thank you for helping us continue to be an important resource in combating homelessness in the Washington, DC, community.

To make a contribution to Anne Frank House, please send your check to: Anne Frank House, Inc., PO Box 73275, Washington, DC 20056-3275. For online contributions, please visit our website: theannefrankhouse.org.

Anne Frank House is sad to report that George Siletti, who was profiled in the March *Chronicle*, passed away recently after a long illness. George lived with us for many years and was an articulate voice on the needs of homeless people. We will miss him. ✨

April 2017 Programs for Families with Young Children



Class for Expectant Parents: April 19, 26
Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children: April 21

Tot Shabbat: Saturdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

“Coffee Club” for Parents with Babies:
Wednesdays, April 5, 19, 26

Playdate in the Gan: Thursdays, April 6, 20, 27

Sing N’Play in the Library:
Thursdays, April 6, 20, 27

Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class:
Fridays, April 7, 21, 28

Miss Ellie’s Shir a Song: Tuesdays, April 4, 25



For our Families with Young Children!
Come enjoy time with your children and your Adas family! Connect with old friends and make new ones. Contact Alexis.Tinsley@AdasIsrael.org with any questions about programs or registration.

Class for Expectant Parents: Expecting a new addition to your family? Have some questions? Want to meet other expectant

parents? Join us for a six-week class that will help you prepare for this exciting transition. Wednesdays, April 19–May 24, 6:30–8:00 pm; first-time and repeat parents welcome!

Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children: Join us once a month for a Friday night “Happy Half Hour” (wine, cheese, and crackers to tide you over) at 5:00 pm, *Kabbalat Shabbat* Services for young children and their families at 5:30 pm, and a delicious dinner at 6:15 pm. *Registration deadline is March 14.*

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

“Coffee Club” for Parents with Babies: Stop by the *Beit Midrash* Wednesday mornings, 9:30–11:30 am 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 am if your little one is too young to attend the Gan. They will play, you will schmooze! Parents, grandparents, and caregivers welcome!

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

Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class: Is your child 18–24 months? Come join us in the Kangaroo class! Your child will get to know the warmth and wonder of the Gan with your support. MWF 9:00–10:30 am or 10:30 am–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; \$185 for first child, \$100 for first sibling. ✨

Expecting a new addition to your family? Not sure what to expect?

Come meet and learn with other expectant parents. First-time and repeat parents welcome!

Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 pm, April 19–May 24

Adas clergy and Early Childhood staff will lead discussions about becoming (or expanding) a Jewish family, Jewish practices surrounding birth, how you plan a *bris* or baby naming, mindful parenting, etc. There will be time each week for you to schmooze with your classmates so that you start on this exciting adventure with new friends in the same life transition. Tell your friends who are expecting! Contact Alexis.Tinsley@AdasIsrael.org with questions or to register.

Gan HaYeled

It’s April and *Pesach* is coming. The Gan prepares in many ways—learning the story and songs, cooking and practicing rituals, cleaning, and talking about freedom in developmentally appropriate ways. The most exciting part of our preparation might be burning the *hametz*. We gather in the Adas parking lot, and Hazzan Goldsmith leads us in prayer and song as we toss our leavened products into a fire prepared by our maintenance staff. This visual reminder is important for our students as experiential learning is key for young students. Feel free to join us for the ceremonial burning of the *hametz* at 9:30 am on April 5. (Adas’s own ritual is Monday, April 10, at 9:00 am.) ✨

Youth@AI

Sunday, April 2: *Machar* (grades 3–5) & *Chaverim* (grades K–2), Talent Show, 5:00–7:00 pm

Sunday, April 2: USY (grades 9–12) Israeli Master Chef Experience, 1:00–3:00 pm

Sunday, April 30: USY/*Kadima* (grades 6–12), Kings Dominion Day, Time TBD

Sunday, May 7: *Kadima* (grades 6–8), Laser Tag, 12:30–3:30 pm

To register for all Youth@AI events, visit www.adasrael.org/youth and click on the registration link. And remember to check out our website, www.adasrael.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@adasrael.org. ✨

Ma Touu: Healey Sutton

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

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

I did my undergrad at GW but moved back up to the Boston area after graduation. I always wanted to move back, and finally did so in the spring of 2007. I love living in DC—the museums, the monuments, the restaurants—there is so much to do and it's great to be in the thick of things. I've also been lucky to find a really amazing community of people who are also bucking the "transient" stereotype of DC residents.

You officially joined Adas in 2015, but you've been attending for much longer than that. What attracted you to Adas?

I attended my first event at Adas in 2012 after I first relocated to DC proper from northern Virginia. In the years afterward I spent a lot of time visiting different *minyans* and *shuls* and learning a lot more about Jewish practice, but began attending Adas more regularly in 2015. What initially attracted me was the variety of services and the clergy, but I thought people didn't belong to a synagogue until they needed to send a child to religious school. Fortunately I learned there's a lot more to it than that!

You recently traveled to Israel. Why did you go? What were some of your favorite parts of the trip? What city or cities are you most excited to visit again?

I was very lucky in 2016 in that I traveled to Israel twice. My first trip, in July, was with a 20s and 30s group from DC, and it was amazing. We got to see parts of Israel people don't typically visit, meet people from really different groups within Israel, and, of course, eat lots of amazing Israeli food.

I went again in December through my MBA program. We studied at Tel Aviv University, learning about Israeli entrepreneurship and innovation. This was a very different experience, learning how Israeli culture influences the economy; it was also interesting to travel with a nonreligious, largely non-Jewish group and see Israel through their perspective. I also took the chance after the trip to rent a car and head south for a few days, stopping in Be'er Sheva and hiking in the Ramon Crater.

I can't wait to get back to Israel. I'd like to spend more time in the north outside of the cities; at some point I'd like to complete the Sea-to-Sea hike, which goes between the Kinneret and the Mediterranean. Of course, my favorite part of any trip to Israel is spending *Shabbat* with my cousin, her husband, and their five children.

You have been very active here at Adas. You helped with Torah Club for our middle school students, you regularly attend our Tuesday night MakomDC programming, you're here every Saturday morning, etc. What is one event, service, or program you'd like to see Adas offer that we haven't, at least not yet?

I love the variety of offerings at Adas, from *Shabbat* and *cha-*



gim services to learning to social justice. One thing that's been on my mind lately is how the Jewish community addresses what is a growing demographic—people in their 30s and 40s who haven't married/had children and therefore aren't necessarily following the traditional path of many synagogue members. We're beginning to age out of the "YP" category but aren't involved in kid-focused activities, whether because we haven't had children yet or aren't planning to at all. I think a discussion about whether we have different needs could potentially lead to some interesting new programs.

You're a big theater person. What are some of your favorite theaters in the area? What is your favorite musical or play that you've seen in DC?

I've been subscribing to Arena Stage for a few years. It always has a wonderful variety of plays and does really great work. One of my best friends subscribes to Shakespeare [Theatre], so I'm fortunate to attend a lot of shows there as well.

Favorite play...ooh, that's a tough one. I saw the staged version of *1984*, which made its way to DC from its run in London, and it was one of the best shows I've seen. For musicals, I really enjoyed Arena's production of *Carousel* this season. I've also attended some wonderful performances at Theater J and Studio Theater.

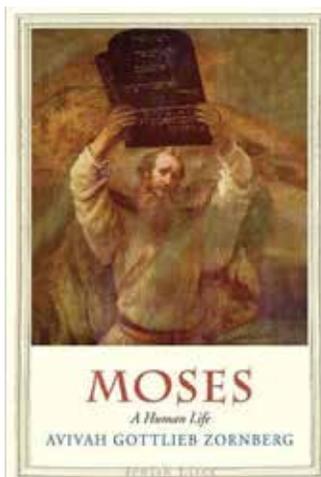
I also love the theater that takes place at Nationals Park each summer.

April means *matzah*, I mean Passover. What are some of your go-to meals for this eight-day period?

Is it that time already? I tend to have a busy schedule, so it's all about preparing ahead of time (and I still can't bring myself to eat *kitniyot*, despite the recent rulings). I usually make *matzah* lasagna to bring to work for lunch. When I have time at home, I prefer more interesting, Passover-specific treats like *matzah brei* with cinnamon and sugar, and I always have at least one *latke/matzah* ball soup night. My annual guilty pleasure is the *Pesachdic* gummy fruit slices. 🍬

A New Spin on Moses

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



Avivah Zornberg is a celebrated biblical commentator, but even she hesitated when invited to write a biography on Moses. Fortunately, she took on this seemingly impossible task, producing *Moses: A Human Life* (2016). This deeply thoughtful work blends traditional rabbinic interpretations with modern psychology, philosophy, and literature. Likewise, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, a former British chief rabbi, applies contemporary learning to Moses in *Lessons in Leadership: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible* (2015). Both books bubble with ideas to explore in this year's *seder*. Here is a sampling.

Moses as Literary Character

For 30 years, Avivah Zornberg has taught Torah in Jerusalem and written critically acclaimed books on the Hebrew bible. But in her first career, the British-born Zornberg was a professor of English literature; she holds a PhD from Cambridge University. That background infuses her biography of Moses; she treats him like a complex literary character.

Zornberg starts with Moses's mother's decision to set him afloat in the Nile, noting the irony that this "both fulfills and defies the Egyptian decree: 'Every male child you shall cast into the river.'" (*Exod. 1:22*). Pharaoh's daughter adopts him, and he grows up as an Egyptian prince. Consequently, says Zornberg, Moses's identity "is fraught with ambiguity." He is Hebrew by birth, but Egyptian by culture. The Israelite people are "both his and not his." No wonder that when God calls out to Moses from the burning bush, Moses asks, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?" (*Exod. 3:11*). Zornberg compares Moses to George Eliot's title character in *Daniel Deronda*, another man who loses and regains his Jewish identity. Deronda grows up as the son of an English aristocrat, learns that he is Jewish, and turns to Zionism.

Zornberg's writing is dense and challenging, but she rewards readers with unexpectedly moving insights. On God's decree that Moses may not enter Canaan, Zornberg quotes Franz Kafka:

He is on the track of Canaan all his life; it is incredible that he should see the land only when on the verge of death. The dying vision of it can only be intended to illustrate how incomplete a moment is human life, incomplete because a life like this could last forever and still be nothing but a moment. Moses fails to enter Canaan not because his life is too short but because it is a human life.

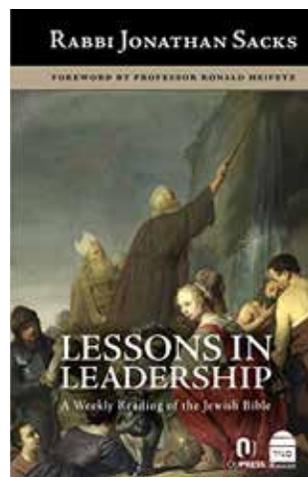
For Zornberg, Moses's life is full of pathos because it is like every human life—inevitably incomplete.

Moses as Storyteller

For *Lessons in Leadership*, Rabbi Sacks, like Zornberg, draws on modern sources. To illuminate Moses's success as a leader, Sacks references the work of Harvard professor of education and psychology Howard Gardner. Quoting Gardner, Sacks contends that a leader has the ability to tell a story that "explains ourselves to ourselves and gives power and resonance to a collective vision." Sacks offers the example of Churchill during World

War II, who inspired his people by telling the story of Britain's indomitable courage in the fight for freedom.

According to Sacks, Moses is the "supreme storyteller" because he not only tells the story of the Israelites, but he also inspires the Israelites to become a "nation of storytellers." Moses both recounts the story of the redemption from slavery and admonishes the Israelites that in the future they too must tell the story (*Deut. 26: 5-8*). In post-biblical times, this became the crux of the Passover *seder*. The secret of Jewish renewal, says Sacks, is passing the story down to new generations. ✨



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 *Beyond the Shoah*. This narrative video 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? ✨

synagogue contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

In Memory Of: Israel Herman by Jack & Flo Herman.

Anne Frank House Fund

By: Diana Conn, Steven & Jane Gilbert, Carolyn Rogers, Stanley M. Salus, Russell & Judy Smith. In Honor Of: Gloria Buckberg's birthday by Sonya Gichner. **Lauren Gelbtuch** by Mark Rettman.

In Memory Of: Alan Kress by June Kress.

Katherine Ozer by Steven & Lisa Schwat.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

In Memory Of: Regina K. Friedman by Judith Friedman.

Bereavement Fund

With Much Gratitude To: Janet Scribner & Jamie Butler by Ada & Neal Gross.

In Memory Of: Annie Naiman by Arnold Danziger.

B'Yahad Special Needs Fund

In Memory Of: Joel Rothstein by Keith & Tamar Levenberg. **Arnold J Rothstein** by Michael Madden & Mindy Saraco. **Gordon Zacks** by Cathy & Michael Gildenhorn.

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In Honor Of: Jacob Schwartz becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Bonnie & Gilbert Schwartz.

Charles Pilzer Computer Center

In Memory Of: Jean Greenberg Fogel by Geraldine Pilzer.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School graduates by Bill Knapp & Jeanie Milbauer, Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel, Ian Gershengorn & Gail Levine, Jamie Horwitz & Denyse Tannenbaum, Leonard Chanin & Jackie Eyl. **Yael Wellisch** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by David & Jessica Wellisch. Our *aufref* by Rachel Rosenthal & Joshua Packman. **Shai Dweck** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Stuart & Velma Hirsch. **Jeff Sosland's** 50th birthday by the Sosland family.

Daily Minyan Fund

By: Janet Scribner.

With Much Gratitude To: Ricki Gerger by Ava & Neal Gross.

Dan Kaufman Children's Program Fund

In Honor Of: Dr. Adam Kaufman's birthday by Minna Kaufman.

Debra Goldberg Educational Fund

In Honor Of: Debra Goldberg & Seth Waxman's 40th anniversary by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

In Memory Of: Michael Ain by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Dr. William & Vivienne Stark Wedding & Anniversary Fund

In Memory Of: Giza Stark by Bill & Vivienne Stark.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: Irma Lee Ettinger by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Fund for the Future

In Honor Of: Shirley Cohen's significant birthday by Ann Goldman. **Shirley Cohen's** 90th birthday by Ellie Tiemann, Glenn & Cindy Easton. Birth of **Sasha Eliana Nussdorf** by Glenn & Cindy Easton. **Ruth Kleinrock** receiving her PhD by David & Heather Polonsky.

In Memory Of: Louis L. Rusoff by Don & Gail Roache.

Garden of the Righteous

By: Laura Ginns,

In Honor Of: Gail Schwartz & Judy Strauch's birthdays by Lawrence & Jean Bernard. **Judy Strauch's** special birthday by David & Heather Polonsky.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: Amb. Sol Linowitz by Harry & Judie Linowes.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

By: Silvio & Shera Krvaric.

In Memory Of: Shirley S. Wasserman by Cheryl Wasserman. **Shirley Berkin Rosenberg** by Dava Berkman.

Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund

With Much Gratitude To: Janet Scribner & Rae Grad by Ava & Neal Gross.

In Memory Of: Richard Cohen by Kathy Krieger. **Thomas Casey & Vivian Obestein** by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Ida Mendelson Memorial Prayer Book Fund

In Memory Of: Shirley Rosenberg by Herlene Nagler.

Leonard Melrod Memorial Nursery School Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of our great grandnephew, Ezra Gratz II by Kenneth Rubenstein.

MakomDC Fund

By: Peter & Naomi Rosenblatt.

Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: Florence Tucker by Stefan Tucker.

Mikvah Fund

In Memory Of: Vernon Savadow by Ross Eisenman & Shelley Tomkin.

Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund

In Loving Memory Of: Arnold J Rothstein by Jane Baldinger, Marsha Pinson & the Ovals.

In Memory Of: Shirley Rosenberg by Art & Edie Hessel, Miriam & Hal Ratner.

Offerings Fund

By: Marty Rouse

In Honor Of: Our 45th anniversary by Don & Gail Roache. **Ruth Kleinrock** receiving her PhD by Manny Schiffres & Rae Grad.

In Memory Of: Sally Bloom by Michael Madden.

Oliver & Bertha Atlas Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: Rita Atlas Goldstein Wolfson by Arlene & Harold Friedman, Barbara & Hyman Shapiro, Bo & Marky Kirsch, Gloria & Lee Derkay.

Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Gratitude For: Rabbi Alexander's support after the loss of our brother by Ava & Neal Gross.

Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund

In Memory Of: Rose Sackett by Stanley Scherr.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

In Honor Of: Beverly Cohen's special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

In Gratitude For: Rabbi Steinlauf's support after the loss of our brother by Ava & Neal Gross.

In Memory Of: Philip Chernikoff by Leslie Chernikoff Berman.

Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund

By: Ryna Cohen

In Honor Of: Marriage of Samantha Berzon & Gordon Roth by Jeffrey & Elyse Linowes. Speaking Truth to Power by Larry & Lisa Westreich.

With Thanks For: Rabbi Steinlauf's support by Bob & Robin Berman.

Refugee Response Project

By: David Goldfarb & Federica Volpe, Richard Knapp & Susan Korytkowski, Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Memory Of: Mildred Hessel by Arthur Hessel. **Yetta Chiswick** by Barry Chiswick.

Ada Strauss by Betsy Strauss. **Arnold J Rothstein** by Elinor Tattar. **Raymond Joseph, Shirley Joseph, & George Cohen** by Ellen Gertsen. My mother, **Edith Green** by Fradel Kramer. **David Mark Promisel** by Larry & Myra Promisel. **Miria Yakobi** by Lev Gilboa. **Taube Weidman** by Mildred Jacobs. **Ray Firestone** by Ross Firestone. **Rita Atlas Goldstein Wolfson** by Sandra Zuckerman. **Hilde M. Simenauer & Alfred Simenauer** by Stephanie Lynn. **Dr. Harry Aks** by Vicki Perper.

Rothstein Family Israel College Scholarship Fund

In Honor Of: **Irv Rothstein's** special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Samuel & Sadie Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Sadie Lebowitz** by Marky Kirsch.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Memory Of: **Shirley Berkin Rosenberg, Arnold J Rothstein, Phyllis Sherman, Florence J. Kahn, & Jerome Sorcher**, all by Alan & Dale Sorcher.

Shelley Remer Gan HaYeled Enrichment Fund

Mazal Tov To: **Yael Wellisch, Shai Dweck** on becoming *b'nai mitzvah* by Stewart & Shelley Remer.

In Memory Of: **Arnold J Rothstein** by Cindy, Glenn, Lisa & Amy Easton, Rabbi Randall & Cantor Arianne Brown, Stewart & Shelley Remer.

Siddur Lev Shalem Praybook Fund

By: Donald & Susan Lubick.

In Honor Of: **Jonah & Eliana Rakitt** by Jeff Rakitt & Susan Bayles. **Simone Delaney Crispino, Sydney Ellis Havens, & Ivey Maris Havens**, all by Laurie Alban Havens. **Doris N. Wolin, Ethan, Oliver & Zoe Wolin**, all by Neal Wolin & Nicole Elkon. **Joseph J. & Shirley Cohen** by Shirley Cohen.

In Loving Memory Of: **Lisa Maisels & Carol Maisels** by Amanda Maisels. **Irving & Alice Goldsmith** by Denise Gershowitz. **Ralph & Millie Gershowitz** by Joel Gershowitz. **Harry S. Wolin, Max Wolinetz, Ethel Wolinetz Maxwell N. Wacker, Zena Wacker, & Ross Sussman**, all by Neal Wolin & Nicole Elkon, *In Memory Of:* **David Stuart Berman** by Andrea Berman Price. **Ed Rothman, Florence Schenof, Jack Schenof, & Ben Cohen**, all by Barry & Anne Schenof. **Sanford Levenson Lou & Sally Waxman, Miriam & Ted Levenson** by Bill Levenson. **Hilde Michele Simenauer & Alfred Simenauer** by David & Stephanie Lynn. **Irving & Estelle Zonana George & Ida Rosen** by Elisa Rosen. **Joshua James Rubin, Leo Paul Mahoney** by Jeff Rakitt & Susan Bayles. **Solomon Friss** by Lynn Friss Feinberg. **Sergio Bernstein** by Maya Bernstein. **Samuel & Tillie Gerger, Harry & Sylvia Brown, Ben-Tzion Schachter, Harry Schachter Albert Schachter, Rabbi Louis Schachter, Elliot Samuel Gerger, Rabbi Abraham & Rachel Schachter**, all by Ricki Gerger.

Sisterhood Donations

In Honor Of: **Shirley Cohen's** 90th birthday by Helen Paver, Marcia Weinberg.

Sisterhood Annual Sponsored Dinners

In Honor Of: Sisterhood, my dear friend **Donald Saltz** & his late wife, **Mozelle** by David & Heather Polonsky.

Social Action Fund

In Honor Of: **Vicki Perper's** special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

In Memory Of: **Anne Buring** by Benjamin Buring. **Shirley Berkin Rosenberg** by Lawrence & Jean Bernard. **Angela Casey** by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

SOME

In Memory Of: **Pearl Gluck Nathan** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Music Fund

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

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: **Sammy Rabinowitz** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Rabbi Randall & Cantor Arianne Brown.

In Memory Of: **Yetta Chiswick** by Barry Chiswick. **Mali Herzberg & Albert Herzberg** by Benjamin Herzberg & Debbie Isser.

Edgar Roggen by Jeffrey Knishkowsky & Patti Lieberman. **Vera Leifman** by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Tzedakah Fund

In Honor Of: **Mel Jacobson's** special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

In Memory Of: **Beniamino Sadun** by Arrigo & Mary Elizabeth Sadun. **Larry Politz, Helen Politz Banyas, Jack Politz**, all by Bonnie Politz. **Reuben Isaac Wolfson** by Charles & Nancy Wolfson. **Sola Both** by Charles Both. **Charles Cogen** by Ed & Ruth Cogen. **Vera Leifman & Edgar Roggen** by Glenn & Cindy Easton. **Beverly Espinesa** by Grayce Warren-Boulton. **Hannah Goldman** by Martin Goldman.

Warren Dennis Memorial School Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Warren Dennis** by Diane Lipton Dennis.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory Of: **Sol Adelman** by Adele Buckhantz & family. **Sylvia C. Cooper** by Alan Cooper. **Marilyn Horowitz** by Andrea Handel. **Samuel Julius Friedlander** by Bernice Friedlander. **Lt. Col. Emanuel Glickman & Suzin Glickman** by Bertha Glickman. **Evelyn Cousins** by Beth Sloan. **Edward Kluft** by Bev Cohen. **Charles Kincaid** by Bill & Marilyn Kincaid. **Barbara Kline Goodof** by David Kline. **Abraham Tersoff** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff. **Sara Levinson** by Don Levinson. **Jean Caplan Lazar** by Dr. Marion Usher. **Ruth Usher** by Dr. Michael Usher. **David Lieberman** by Irving Lieberman. **Miriam Bachrach & Harold Bachrach** by Joan Slatkin. **Sylvia Weinstein** by Judge Paul Weinstein. **Oscar Friedman** by Judith Beltz. **Rose Bildman** by Lois Levitan. **Benjamin Knie** by Lynn Kletzkin. **Chayim Davarashvili** by Margaret Gilboa. **Jozsef Karpati** by Maria Burka. **Mona Sarkin & Lillian Jaffe** by Michael & Elaine Jaffe. **Bruce Kletzkin** by Morris Kletzkin. **Joseph Banoun & Esther Banoun** by Raymond Banoun. **Ruth Cline** by Robert Cline. **Rose Leibowitz** by Roslyn Weinstein. **Ursel Frank** by Ruth Bognovitz. **Ruth Cohen** by Sharon Cooper. **Ruth Grayson** by Stephen Grayson. **Sidney Sachs** by Susan Sachs Goldman. **Solomon Fromberg** by Tzipy Fromberg. **Rubye B. Willis** by William Willis. **Milton Slawsky** by Zalma

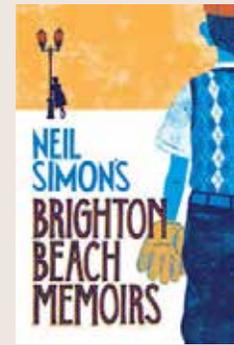
Slawsky.

Youth Activities Fund

In Memory Of: **Bertha Remer** by Danny, Jennifer, Sammy, Louie & Ellie Rosenthal. **Philip Chernikoff** by David Berman & Leslie Chernikoff Berman. **Lois Susan Legrua** by Jeffrey Jacobovitz. **Abraham "Al" Goll** by Liz Lerner. **Stephen J. Smith** by Richard & Carol Margolis. **Gertrude Bieber** by Sandy Bieber & Linda Rosenzweig. **Simon Albert** by Stanley & Ellen Albert. **Lee Walsky** by the Stein family.

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. 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 🌸



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UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINES—

May: Wednesday, March 29,
at noon

June: Friday, April 23, at noon