I remember quite vividly the first time I experienced transformative revelation during Torah learning. I was in Israel, a year and a half into my two years of learning at the Conservative yeshiva. I had been fully immersed in the study of Talmud, Jewish law, liturgy, and Israeli culture. And then, one afternoon, Rabbi Brad Artson, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, came to offer a 30-minute lunch and learn class for prospective rabbinical students. I went, to be brutally honest, because he offered free lunch along with the learning. I was expecting, more than anything else, a full stomach, which was not a small thing on my meager budget. What I wasn’t expecting was to have my heart cracked open and soaking up textual wisdom poured into the crevices.

That moment changed my life’s course. And it is certainly one of the many reasons I ended up here in this special community, albeit 15 years after that short study session. I’ve often asked myself: What was it about that particular moment and that particular teaching—about which I don’t remember the actual content—that forever changed my interaction with Torah? The short answer is that it was the right time, in the right place, with the right (extremely gifted) teacher. But that’s not all.

I was actually prepared for a moment of depth and transformation, even though I wasn’t expecting it at all. I was prepared in that I grounded myself in Torah learning for months beforehand. That doesn’t mean I was hunched over books 24/7, but I consciously kept the wisdom of our tradition close by, knowing that if the cosmos (i.e., God!) so shifted—in my favor—I might experience something bigger than myself, connected to something eternal. That combination, a) swimming with Torah, and b) without the particular expectation that every text would change my life, left me ready for the ingredients described above.

Recalling this story reminds me of a special rabbinic teaching that is often associated with the upcoming holiday, Shavuot.

Rabbi Yossi bar Hanina taught (at Mt Sinai):

God spoke to each and every person according to his or her own particular ability. And do not wonder at this! For when the manna came down for Israel, each and every person tasted it in his or her own way—infants in their way, the young in their way, the old in their way. And just as the manna was tasted by everybody according to their own way, so too each heard God’s voice at Sinai according to his or her particular ability.

Therefore David (author of the book of Psalms) said: “The voice of God is in its strength” (Psalms 29:4). “That is, [the words were spoken] strongly enough to be heard and understood according to the ability of each and
Save the Date
The Argan—Cantors, Latin American Jewish Music Concert with Argentina’s Most Talented Cantors
Presented by Cantor Arianne Brown & the Musical Moments Committee, June 5
Plan to join us on Sunday, June 5, at 7:00 pm, for our big music event of the year! You won’t be able to wipe the smile from your face as you listen to the energetic arrangements, the Latin rhythms, and the fantastic voices of Argentinian cantors Gastón Bogomolni, Ari Litvak, and Elias Rosemberg. They will be joined by our own Cantor Arianne Brown and Adas Israel’s Flash Choir for an engaging musical experience, followed by an ice cream sundae reception! To order tickets, visit adasIsrael.org/musicalmoments or call 202-362-4433. Cost: $18 General Admission; $36 Premier Seating; $100 Sponsor (Premiere Seating & Formal Acknowledgment); Children under b’nai mitzvah age are free!

DC Pride @ Adas
Equality, Justice and Inclusion for All
Contemporary Judaism is at a historic moment, in which inclusion, equality and celebration of the individual are becoming celebrated values in mainstream Jewish life. Be a part of that forward momentum and demonstrate Pride in our own community’s achievements in fostering these essential human values: equality, justice, and inclusion for all. Join us for a weekend of dialogue, prayer, and action, as we participate in the LGBT Pride March, Saturday, June 10, and DC Pride Festival, Sunday, June 11. Hundreds of marchers and dozens of Jewish organizations will come together to represent the love, equality, and values for which the Jewish community stands.

“When we become judges of another person, we behave contrary to Torah law. When we foster dissonance between our insides and our outsides, we behave contrary to Torah law. When a member of our community is forced to the periphery, to the outskirts, we behave contrary to Torah law. Join and make the conversation.”

Adas DC Pride Weekend Schedule
Friday, June 9
6:30 pm: Return Again Shabbat Service
8:00 pm: Community Shabbat Dinner
Saturday, June 10
9:30 am: Shabbat Morning Service March in the DC Pride Parade (meet at Dupont Circle; exact location and time TBD)
Sunday, June 11
11:00 am–6:00 pm: DC Pride Festival on Penn Avenue; stop by the Adas Booth!
To volunteer to help staff the Adas Pride booth, or to support any other part of this weekend, please contact Courtney Tisch at Courtney.Tisch@adasIsrael.org.

Developing a Jewish Approach to Courage
Featuring Scholar Rabbi Dr. Shai Held
NEW DATE! Wednesday, March 10 @ 7:30pm
Courage is a virtue, and a rarity— but what does it actually look like? In this session, we’ll explore three key issues in developing a Jewish approach to courage: 1) The obligation to protest injustice even when we might feel intimidated; 2) Our struggles with feeling daunted by those who are more powerful than we are— or by our social peers; and 3) Realizing that being courageous is decidedly not the same thing as being fearless. Rabbi Shai Held is an awarded theologian, scholar, and Jewish educator, named multiple times to Newsweek’s list of the 50 most influential rabbis. This event will be livestreamed! adasIsrael.org/adaslive
In Doris' 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 ♡
Office Closing

Memorial Day, Monday, May 29
Schools/Offices Closed

Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 30
Schools/Offices Close at 3:30 pm

Shavuot Day 1, Wednesday, May 31
Schools/Offices Closed

Shavuot Day 2, Thursday, June 1
Schools/Offices Closed

Save the Date
Annual Congregational Meeting & Open Board Dinner, June 21
Featuring the Yad Hakavod Award Honoree

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting and Yad Hakavod Award Ceremony at 7:30 pm.
The annual meeting is your chance to participate in the growth, health, and vibrancy of your synagogue and your community. Join family and friends as we plot a course for the next year of Jewish communal life in our community. This concept is not new; Moses was once the sole judge in the desert, but his father-in-law advised him to delegate that work broadly. We learn from Moses’s delegation that a community should be empowered to control its destiny and govern itself. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard and join us as we usher our community forward into a renewed age of warmth, welcoming, and growth.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS:
- Financial and Budget Presentation
- Election of new Board Members and Synagogue Leaders for the new Fiscal year
- “State of the Synagogue” Address by outgoing President Debby Joseph
- Installation and remarks by incoming President Ricki Gerger
- Yad Hakavod Award Presentation
- Dessert Reception follows the meeting

An Evening of Jewish Kirtan with the Kirtan Rabbi, Andrew Hahn
The Art of Mystical Hebrew Call and Response Chant Brought to you by the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington (JMCW) @ Adas Israel

Join us for a deep, fully participatory call-and-response musical experience! Live Kirtan is at once ecstatic, contemplative, and, most of all, playfully improvised. Find your kavanah (spiritual intention) with a group energy experience that elevates the spirit, builds community, and actualizes interconnectedness. Cultivate a taste for Kirtan in a relaxed, welcoming environment, led by Rabbi Andrew Hahn.

Rabbi Hahn has pioneered Kirtan in the Jewish world, crisscrossing the globe to offer communal call-and-response chant concerts and meditation seminars. 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.

In addition to our exciting Kirtan concert experience, Rabbi Hahn is joining Adas for a series of special Shabbat programs. The weekend kicks off with a joint Return Again Friday Night Service, a reflective journey into the power of Shabbat, with an added Kirtan energy that revitalizes the soul. Then, join us for Saturday morning services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, where we will hear from featured speaker Rabbi Hahn. We look forward to sharing this exciting, uplifting, experience with you!

Kirtan Weekend Schedule:
Friday, May 12, 6:30 pm: “Return Again” Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt, Elie Greenberg, and Rabbi Andrew Hahn, the Kirtan Rabbi
Friday, May 12, 8:00 pm: Community Shabbat Dinner
Saturday, May 13, 9:30 am: Guest Speaker Rabbi Andrew Hahn joins the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary Saturday Morning Service
Saturday, May 13, 8:00 pm: An Evening of Jewish Kirtan with the Kirtan Rabbi Andrew Hahn
**Lag B’Omer**

*Excerpted from the Jewish Federations of North America Web Site*

This year Lag B’Omer is on Sunday, May 14 (or the 18th of Iyar), but even before the second Passover sedar is over—while we’re still at the table—we start to count the days until Shavuot in what has become known as Sefirat Ha’omer—the counting of the omer. In Temple times, the Sefirah connected the seven weeks between the Passover barley harvest with the wheat harvest of Shavuot.

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

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

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**Shavuot @ Adas Israel**

**Recreating the Space Between Heaven and Earth—Grounding the Expanse of Torah**

**Beginning Tuesday Evening, May 30**

Each year, in late spring or early summer, the Jewish calendar gives us the opportunity to ritualize and reenact the sacred obligation of receiving Torah.

Specifically at night, we cultivate the space to realize the constant and consistent flow of holiness—Torah—from heaven to earth, and earth back to heaven. In other words, Torah, in all its forms, fills the world, ready to be claimed by any of us, and then cradled, distilled, debated, and disseminated.

Through music, food, and inspiring words of Torah from DC-area clergy, we prepare to be immersed in an evening that reimagines Mount Sinai, reclaims the space beneath its peak, and reasserts its wisdom for the ground on which we traverse.

**Leading up to the Mountain, Counting the Omer**

Shavuot literally means “weeks” as it occurs precisely seven weeks after the second day of Passover. The 49 days between Passover and Shavuot are known as s’firat haomer (the counting of the omer), reminiscent of the days when farmers brought a measure (omer) of their newly harvested grain to the Temple. Join us during Ma’ariv each evening to count the omer, and ritualistically add a portion of wheat to the row of glass jars in the front lobby, as an expression of our experience of counting.

**The Erev Learning**

On the first night of Shavuot (this year, Tuesday evening, May 30), Jews throughout the world observe the centuries-old custom of conducting an all-night gathering dedicated to Torah learning and preparation for receiving the Torah anew the next morning. At Adas, learners of all ages will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and learn Torah. We will have multiple learning sessions to choose from with our dynamic clergy; see the full learning schedule below.

**An Outdoor Shavuot Late-Night Experience at Adas**

This Shavuot, we’ll create a holy moment of capturing Torah in both thought and action, transforming our outdoor plaza into the bottom of the mountain—our eyes, ears, and hearts turned upward—open to rediscovering the Torah that hovers above us and all around us.

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**Full Shavuot 2017 Schedule**

*Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 30, Light Candles at 8:08 pm*

- 7:00 pm: Maariv
- 7:30 pm: Kiddush
- 8:00 pm: Clergy-Led Torah Study
- 9:00 pm: Outside Learning Experience

**Shavuot Day 1, Wednesday, May 31, Light Candles at 9:09 pm**

- 9:15 am: Combined Charles E. Smith Sanctuary & Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Service; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander
- 11:00 am: Families with Young Children Shavuot Hike
- 6:00 pm: Mincha/Maariv/Kabbalat Chag

**Shavuot Day 2, Thursday, June 1**

- 9:15 am: All invited to the service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary Service; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf
- 11:00 am: Yizkor
- 1:00 pm: Mincha

*For an updated schedule please go to [www.adasisrael.org/shavuot](http://www.adasisrael.org/shavuot)*
Scenes from an Upside Down Purim at Adas!

Thank you to our Purim volunteers:
Elena Altschuler and Max Parness, Rachel Case, Mary Ellen Friedman, David and Elizabeth Glidden, Mark Greenberg, Elaine Holton, Bonnie Roskes, Sharon Samberg, and Ron Schlesinger.

Yashar Koach to the Megillah readers in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary service:
We are so proud of the students in our Ma’alot program and hope that you will join us for this special evening.

The Shalom Learning Value of the Month

Shalom—Peace

The Hebrew word shalom is both the most accessible Jewish word and the most elusive global value. The popular notion is that shalom can be translated as hello, goodbye, and peace. But the reason all three come together in one word is that the root of shalom is שלום, signifying wholeness and fulfillment.

From this root, we see a logical flow when we attribute the high priest Aaron as the ultimate pursuer of peace (רודף שלום). Since we are all supposed to be a “nation of priests,” our tradition asks us all to be pursuers of peace by proactively seeking times and places where we can bring wholeness and fulfillment to relationships. Our objective is not to praise the value of peace as an abstract construct, but rather to equip our learners to become peacemakers in all their social circles.

It is critical to note that the Jewish pursuit of shalom may require strength, courage, and force. Embracing peace is not to be a pacifist. After all, the only other value we are asked to actively pursue is justice—צדק צדק תדוף (Deuteronomy 16:20), and we must be willing to be strong in our pursuit and defense of justice and peace. While this does set up possible conflicts between values, the struggle to weigh and prioritize these values has the potential to bring us wisdom and maturity. This is the final unit of the year, and in many ways it incorporates all the other values as steps toward shalom.
May 2017 Programs for Families with Young Children

**Gan HaYeled**

**Truck Day:** Beep! Beep! Honk! Honk! The 24th annual Gan HaYeled Truck Day is May 17, 9:00 am to noon, in our parking lot. The children get to climb in, on, and around all sorts of vehicles, from snow plows and dump trucks to fire trucks and motorcycles. ALL Adas community children are invited. The synagogue parking lot will be closed during that time; we apologize for any inconvenience.

**Last chance to register:** There are still spots left in Camp Sweet Summertime, the Gan’s summer camp. Sweet Summertime begins June 19 and runs through August 11 in two-week sessions. Throughout the eight weeks of Sweet Summertime you will see smiles and hear laughter from our campers and staff alike. With a broad variety of activities, there is something for everyone. As a special bonus, our very special Gan teachers work in the summer and make Sweet Summertime a wonderful experience. This year’s theme is: MOTION. From Animal Motion (in a special reptile show) to Celestial Motion (planetarium) to Objects in Motion (a magic show), our campers will enjoy activities, water play in our newly renovated Outdoor Learning Environment, and friendships.

**Join the Gan for the 2017–18 school year!** We still have a few spaces left. For more information call the Gan office, 202-362-4491 or visit adasisrael.org/gan.

**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 @ the Gan website.

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

**Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children:** Join us once a month for a Friday night “Happy Half-Hour” (wine, cheese, and crackers to tide you over) at 5:00, Kabbalat Shabbat services for young children and their families at 5:30, and a delicious dinner at 6:15. Registration deadline: May 12.

**Shavuot Hike:** Join other families with young children for a spiritual hike followed by a congregational kiddush. This hike is designed for young children, but will not be stroller friendly.

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**Class for Expectant Parents:** May 3, 10, 17, 24

**“Coffee Club” for Parents with Babies:** Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24

**Playdate in the Gan:** Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

**Sing N’Play in the Library:** Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

**Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class:** Fridays, May 5, 12, 19, 26

**Tot Shabbat:** Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20

**Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children:** May 19

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.

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

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Milestones
Birth
Cecilia, daughter of Jeremy and Jana Kadden, born March 2. We wish our newborn and her family strength, good health, and joy.

B’nai Mitzvah

Eliza Leibovich, May 6
Eliza, daughter of Meri Kolbrener and Mark Leibovich is a seventh grader at Oyster Adams Bilingual School in Washington, DC. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and has been a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School for almost eight years. She celebrates her bat mitzvah with her two sisters, Nell and Franny, and myriad family and friends. Eliza loves to sing and play soccer and always has a smile for everyone.

Ethan Cohen, May 20
Ethan, son of Laurie and Gary Cohen, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. He began his Jewish education in the Kangaroo class at Gan HaYeled, and has been attending the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since third grade. For his mitzvah project, recognizing the impact sports has had on his life, Ethan has chosen to work with Leveling the Playing Field, which provides sports equipment to underprivileged communities and children. Ethan looks forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah with his brother Devin, his parents, his grandparents—Judy and Richard Cohen and Beth and Leonard Sloan, and the rest of his extended family and friends.

Nathan Gershengorn, May 27 (TEM)
Nathan, son of Ian Gershengorn and Gail Levine, is a seventh grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. He shares this simcha with his brothers, Caleb and Ari; his grandparents, Ken and Wendie Gershengorn and Jules and Marcia Levine; and the rest of his family.

Member in the News
Ilan Cohen, a 10th grader at CESJDs who has grown up at Adas Israel, has been appointed to serve on USY’s International General Board (IGB) for 2017 for a second term. He will serve as the International Chapter-Region Resource Chair, a new position created this year.

In Memoriam
We mourn the loss of synagogue member:
Barbara Chasen Miller
Mendelle Woodley

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
David Buring, father of Benjamin Buring
Mildred “Millie” Hellerstein, mother of Judith Hellerstein
Dan Knoll, father of Jennifer Knoll
Lillian Kort, mother of Ann Kort
Payah Shvets, mother of Inna Lerner

Yom HaZikaron
On this Memorial Day, the fourth of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar, we commemorate the soldiers who have fallen fighting for Israel’s independence and defending its security. In Israel, Yom HaZikaron is marked with sirens that alert people to stop all activity and honor the fallen.

This holiday’s placement the day before Israel Independence Day is intentional: the soldiers who gave their lives were directly responsible for the existence of Israel as an independent state. In this way, a day of solemn commemoration can be followed by joyous celebration and song. This year Yom HaZikaron is observed on Monday, May 1.

Yom Ha’Atzmaut (Israel’s Independence Day), 5777
The anniversary of the modern State of Israel is a wonderful milestone for the State and for the Jewish people. This modern miracle is unparalleled in history. Yom Ha’Atzmaut is celebrated this year on Tuesday, May 2.

In celebration of Yom Ha’Atzmaut, please attend our morning minyan at 7:15 am on Tuesday, May 2. Join us as we celebrate modern Israel’s past, present, and future.
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said, “Words are the language of the mind. Music is the language of the soul. So when we seek to express or evoke emotion, we turn to melody. Niggun, or melody, is intimately present in our stories and prayers and often manifests as the collective song of the Jewish people. Our individual voice is both a unique expression of who we are and an invitation to participate in a larger, ongoing conversation with God and all of humanity. This month at JMCW, we explore the work of Rabbi Andrew Hahn, PhD, lovingly known as Reb Drew and the Kirtan Rabbi. His musical narrations, or kirtan, bring energy, passion, and melodic flow to Jewish wisdom. Please join us for a weekend of musical movement and a month of rhythmic connections to spirituality through JMCW services and programs.

Return Again’ Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt, Elie Greenberg, and Special Guest, Rabbi Andrew Hahn, the Kirtan Rabbi, Friday, May 12, 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 power of Shabbat with seasoned musicians and a spiritual excursion into prayer and song. A Community Shabbat dinner follows.

Shabbaton with Rabbi Andrew Hahn continues:
* May 13, 9:30 am: Rabbi Andrew Hahn will join the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary Saturday morning service and offer a Drash sermon
* May 13, 8:00 pm Evening concert with full-band kirtan
See Adas web site and weekly newsletters for more details.

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!

Special Yoga Workshops; All Levels Welcome!
Online registration required: see the JMCW web page (www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/)

Embodied Devotion Workshop with Jess Lazar
Sunday, May 7, 9:30 am–12:00 noon
Judaism interweaves practice and contemplation, encouraging us to question, analyze, and embody our beliefs. Yoga combines these same elements of embodied devotion, as we strive to access the divine spirit, or neshama, in each one of us.

Pen & Pose Workshop with Yael Flusberg
Sunday, May 14, 10:30 am–12:00 noon
Yael is bringing back this innovative Mother’s Day workshop interspersing yoga with writing exercises. In this practice, participants will use mind and body to reach their innermost selves. Dress comfortably and bring your favorite notebook and pen!

JMCW Recommends . . .
The music of Rabbi Andrew Hahn, the Kirtan Rabbi, has been called “pure joy.” You can listen to some selections and purchase or download his CDs at www.kirtanrabbi.com.
Explore the Adas Library for books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. You can fins some of these under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

In this material world, especially if we have sinned and are very far from God, the main way to attach ourselves to God is through melody and song. —Rebbe Nachman of Bratslov
### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<td>Adas Book Chat: Beyond the Shoah</td>
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<td>Central Europe</td>
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|            | 3:00 pm    | Seder
|            | 6:00 pm    | Wine Event                                 |
| **31**     | 4:00 pm    | D’var Torah - Sermon by the Rabbi          |
|            | 6:00 pm    | D’var Torah - Sermon by the Rabbi          |
|            | 7:00 pm    | Seven Blessings                            |
|            | **9:00 am**| Seven Blessings                            |
| **4 Iyar** | 9:15 am    | Shabbat Morning Service; Sermon by Rabbi   |
|            | 10:00 am   | Holtzblatt                                 |
|            | 10:30 am   | ADDITIONAL INFORMATION                      |
|            |            | To participate, e-mail:                   |
|            |            | shabbat@adasisrael.org                     |
| **5 Iyar** |            | For more information, e-mail:              |
|            |            | librarian@adasisrael.org                   |
| **6 Iyar** |            | If you are unable to attend programs,      |
|            |            | lectures, or services, dial in to         |
|            |            | Congregation                              |
| **7 Iyar** |            | for grades 4–6, is led by Yoni Buckman    |
|            |            | and teenage students. 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 maidschirim.                       |
| **8 Iyar** |            | SHABBAT:                                      |
| **9 Iyar** |            | SHABBAT:                                      |
| **10 Iyar**|            | SHABBAT:                                      |

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

Charles E. Smith Memorial: 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 local 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 Psiktei D’Zimrah (introduction Psalms), Shacharit, and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a D’var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionsminyan@adasisrael.org.

HAVARAH: 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 havarah@adasisrael.org.

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menahah 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 maidschirim.

### **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 Opens 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 (librarians@adasisrael.org).

### **CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH**

7:30 pm

Shabbat Mincha

2:15 pm

Shabbat Mincha

2:15 pm

Shabbat Mincha

2:15 pm

Shabbat Mincha

2:05 pm

Shabbat Mincha
Happy Shavuot from Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Shavuot Greetings from Sisterhood
Hag Sameach. At this time of Matan Torah, the giving of the Torah, we invite you to support Torah Fund. The Torah Fund Campaign of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism is the dedicated philanthropy of the membership of affiliated sisterhoods in Conservative/Masorti congregations. Torah Fund ensures the future of Conservative/Masorti Judaism around the world by supporting scholarships for clergy and other Judaic professional candidates at the five Conservative/Masorti seminaries and institutions in the U.S., Israel, Latin America, and Europe.

As the Adas Israel 5777 Torah Fund campaign draws to a close on June 30, we encourage you to participate, and we thank those who have already given. Please send your gift to Torah Fund, c/o Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008. Todah—thank you!

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood
‘Downton Abbey in the Talmud’
May 16 with Norman Shore at 10:00 am in the Beit Midrash
Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 16, in the Biran Beit Midrash. Community leader and scholar Norman Shore will lead a tour of “Downton Abbey in the Talmud” during which we’ll examine stories about two of the Talmud’s most prominent slaves: the maidservant of Rabbi Judah Hanasi, and Tavi, the slave of Rabban Gamaliel. What do stories about slaves reveal about power, caste, and gender in Talmudic Judaism?

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

Sisterhood goes to the Movies in May!
Sisterhood Goes to the Movies during the Washington Jewish Film Festival, May 17–28. Lights, camera, action—please join us! As of press time, the movie schedule was not available. For movie selection, ticket prices, dates, times, and venues, contact Helen Kramer, hmk_dc@verizon.net or 202-483-1728.

Closing Event with Cantor Ari, Miriam Isaacs, and Vladimir Fridman, June 11

Yiddish Songs and Stories of World War II Russia with Miriam Isaacs and Vladimir Fridman
Sisterhood’s closing event and membership meeting, June 11 at 11 am, includes a light brunch. Registration and cost TBA.

Please join Sisterhood and Cantor Ari Brown at our closing event and membership meeting. Cantor Ari will begin the program with a performance of selected Yiddish songs followed by an extraordinary program of Yiddish poetry and music, Yiddish Songs and Stories of World War II Russia, led by Sisterhood Board member and Yiddish scholar Miriam Isaacs and guitarist Vladimir Fridman.

This will be Sisterhood’s final meeting of the year, and during this meeting we will vote for our new Board members. Please join us!
Meet Miriam Gusevich
By Dena Bauman

“I was born and grew up in Cuba, an island, so because many of my parent’s friends were from other places, like Romania, the former Ottoman Empire, and elsewhere, I had a sense of a bigger world. I loved looking at maps.” So reminisced Adas and Sisterhood member Miriam Gusevich, a professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the Catholic University of America. In our recent conversation, we talked about her journey from Cuba to Washington DC and the connections among her family, work, and Jewish identity.

Her family’s journey began in Poland and Belarus, with her parents’ immigration to Cuba. Miriam’s mother, Rosa Buznicki, was five years old when she left Warsaw in the late 1920s and moved to Havana. In 1936, at age 18, her father, Abraham Gusewich, joined his older brother and sister there. Owners of a dry goods store, her parents lived behind it with their two daughters, Miriam and her older sister Eva Rebecca, named for her two grandmothers. Miriam was named for her paternal grandfather Mordechai, and Syrian refugees.

Leon Wieseltier
The Duty of a Lifetime: An Encounter with Syrian Refugees
Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 pm

The greatest evils of this dark time have been visited upon by the Syrian people. In a war that has now lasted more than six years, half a million people have been killed, 11 million have been displaced, crimes against humanity have been committed, and millions of refugees rightfully make a claim on our consciences. In a wide-ranging conversation in which Syrian survivors and refugees speak for themselves, Leon Wieseltier will introduce some remarkable men and women who will discuss what has happened and what can be still done.

This will be a moving evening of memory and analysis. Leon Wieseltier, author of Kaddish, is the Isaiah Berlin Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. In recent years he has been active in the cause of justice for Syria and Syrian refugees.
**From Anne Frank House**

**Anne Frank House**

Anne Frank House and its residents have much to be grateful for—particularly for the continuing support and generosity of Adas Israel congregants, clergy, and staff for their continuing special support for Anne Frank House. We also want to thank our 2016 mini-walk sponsors contributing $1,000 or more: Aeroseal Windows & Storefront, Alan & Nancy Bubes, Avalere Health, Bethesda Magazine, CBRE, CG Electric, DMBC Design LLP, Ralph & Louie Dweck, GDL Law, The Greysteel Company, Himmelfarb Commercial Inc., Ingber Dental, McNulty Mechanical LLC, Moti’s Market, Penan & Scott PC, Sandy Spring Bank, SpeedPro Printing, United Security & Communications, Urban Investment Partners, and West Financial Services, Inc.

Thank you all 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 by mail please send a check to: Anne Frank House, Inc., PO Box 73275, Washington, DC 20056-3275.

For online contributions, please visit our website: theannefrankhouse.org.

In the March issue of the *Chronicle*, Anne Frank House profiled longtime resident George Siletti. It is with much sadness that we tell you that George passed away on February 17. Originally referred to us by Friendship Place, George moved from the St. Luke’s Shelter into our permanent housing program in June 2004. Knowing George over the past 13 years has been a joy. He contributed to Anne Frank House in many ways, speaking with businesses, schools, and funding organizations to educate them about homelessness. He had an impact on so many people and helped them understand what homelessness feels like and the hardships faced by those who are homeless. He was always available to “give back.”

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**Social Action Team Updates**

**Poverty/Homelessness/Housing Team News**

**Sukkot in Spring, Sunday, May 21**

“Your people will rebuild what has been in ruins, building again on the old foundations. You will be known as the people who rebuilt the walls, who restored the ruined houses.” Isaiah 58:9–12.

Join us for this year’s *Sukkot* in Spring Home Repair on Sunday, May 21. Working with Yachad, the nation’s largest home/community repair program sponsored by the Jewish community, we will provide volunteers to work and help sponsor the cost of the repairs. Volunteers can commit to the full day, approximately 8:00 am–5:00 pm, or for a four- to five-hour morning or afternoon shift. *Sukkot* in Spring volunteers tackle problems ranging from painting, yard work, broken windows, leaking roofs and rotting floors to inadequate bathrooms and faulty electrical systems. Special skills are not required, just a desire to join our Adas community and help others. There will be expert supervision on hand. If you do have some special home repair skills, please note that in any contact with our volunteer coordinator.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Jay Sher, jrsher89@gmail.com.

**Patricia Handy Place for Women**

YP@AI has a new social action opportunity. On the third Sunday of each month, members of the Adas Israel Young Professional community serve meals to the residents of the Patricia Handy Place for Women, run by N Street Village. Each month 8–10 young professionals serve meals and converse with the women at the center. In the future we plan to expand the number of meals served and become involved in other projects there as well.

For more information or to become involved please contact, Jay Sher, jrsher89@gmail.com or Sam Moss, sam.moss@outlook.com.

**Adas @ SOME on Monday, May 15**

Join other Adas members to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch at SOME on Monday, May 15. Visit the Adas Israel web site and the *Tikkun Olam* homepage for more information and to register.
Refugee Team News

We Need Your Support!
Help us with our efforts to co-sponsor a refugee family by making a contribution now to our growing fund. Our Refugee Response Team has been gearing up for this work, having furnished two apartments for refugee families recently resettled by Lutheran Social Services and recruiting a cadre of volunteers to work with our own refugee family.

We are also developing an extensive volunteer program with the International Rescue Committee to work with refugee families in our community. Adas Israel is committed to a year-long sponsorship of an arriving refugee family that includes rental support. We expect the family to arrive within the next two to ten weeks. The congregation is doing its part to respond to the refugee crisis, and we hope we can count on you to help us realize our goal of $50,000. To make a contribution, please send a check with Refugee in the memo section or visit the Tikkun Olam homepage of the Adas Israel web site, where you’ll find a link to the "giving" tab. Thank you!

Climate Team News

Principled Parve Eating (Meatless Mondays, Adas Style)
A Climate Action Team Challenge

On Tu B’Shevat, the Climate Action Team led Adas Israel in examining how our sages grappled with rules for personal responsibility for harms we cause, even if the harm is indirect or attenuated (a difficult matter in both religious and secular law), and we discussed how these principles relate to that most Jewish of activities: food choices. The pollution emitted in farming and transporting food to us translates like this: one day’s worth of meat and dairy equals 3.2 kg in carbon pollution, while the same amount of vegetable protein is only 0.6 kg. (more info on life-cycle pollution of various foods is here).

More than 30 Adas Israel community members took the “parve pledge” on Sunday, February 12, committing to eat parve (no meat or dairy) one day a week for a year, which will save the amount of carbon that 180 trees would sequester in that time. We’d like to extend the Principled Parve Challenge to the entire community, thus multiplying our positive potential in the natural world.

If you’d like to join, please e-mail Elana Alschuler at e.alschuler@gmail.com.

Clergy Corner continued from page 2

every person who listens to God’s word” (Pesikta De-Rav Kahana, 12).

In other words, the power of Torah is not that its message is totally absolute, universal, or uniform. We may all hear or read the same words, but we each understand them in radically different ways. That’s what made Sinai so distinctive, claims this midrash. All those people, each one unique, each one hearing the same sounds and words, yet each integrating them into his or her consciousness as something particular to that individual’s own experience. Torah bound them together, and left them—well—still themselves.

On that fateful afternoon with Rabbi Artson there were several people in the room. I’m pretty sure all were moved by his teaching, but I’m also sure none of us grasped it in precisely the same way. Each soul there heard his or her Torah refracted through the particular capacity brought into the room that day. For me, it was life changing. For another, maybe it was just another text to be integrated into life’s cannon of wisdom. Or free lunch.

Each year, we mark revelation on the holiday of Shavuot. But Shavuot isn’t celebrating a one-time revelatory moment. It is a paradigm, a reminder that, if we permit ourselves moments of Torah throughout the year, then, when we least expect it, something eternal may happen.

For information on our exciting Shavuot plans, see page 6.
From the President continued from page 2

Adas Israel supported a social action project that led to the establishment of Anne Frank House, a DC model for ending homelessness. Currently an independent nonprofit, Anne Frank House has created supportive housing that has been addressing the needs of formerly homeless men and women suffering from chronic mental illness. AFH has purchased or rented housing, thus enabling its clients to establish permanent homes. In partnership with social services agencies, AFH is providing the supports required for assisting these men and women, among the most vulnerable in our area, to regain their dignity. Many of the volunteers and board members are Adas Israel congregants who give time and friendship.

One of the privileges of my presidency has been to get to know some of the many people who are making a difference in the lives of people in our community. It is a source of great pride to know that Adas Israel provides so many paths for Jewish expression. Please let me know if there is an area in which you are interested in becoming involved. We are delighted to include all who are interested. ✭

Creating a National Network of Progressive Mikvos

What if mikvos like ours existed in every Jewish community? What if everyone knew about the tradition of mikveh from a young age and no one had outdated notions about it? What if the biblical roots of mikveh were fully translated into a modern context? What if all mikvos were safe, sacred, welcoming, and pluralist spaces? That is the goal of a newly created national network of progressive mikvos.

On March 29 and 30, I traveled to Newton, MA, with Maria Sloan, chair of the Mikvah Committee. Representatives from three other mikvos, plus the staff of Mayyim Hayyim, met for training, development workshops, brainstorming sessions, case analysis studies, and focused discussions, both formal and informal. We were joined by Anita Diamant, founder of Mayyim Hayyim and author of The Red Tent and The New Jewish Wedding, among other great books. Supported by the Natan Fund, with a matching grant from the OnBoard foundation, we dreamt and detailed what this will look like.

The idea is for the Adas Israel Community Mikvah, along with Mayyim Hayyim, MaCom Mikvah of Greater Atlanta, and Libi Eir Mikvah of Raleigh, NC, to provide models for emerging or existing mikvos and inspire them to create their own spaces, programs, and systems, all based on a common ethos. There are almost 100 communities around the country who are asking for this kind of support! Maria and I are extremely excited about engaging in this network and watching our grassroots efforts become a groundswell. Please feel free to chat with us about this anytime!

—Naomi Malka, Mikvah Director

Adas Israel to Resettle Syrian Refugee Family

As many of you know, Adas Israel, led by the Social Action Committee’s Refuge Response Team, has been working to develop partnerships with organizations supporting refugees around the world and here in the DC area.

After nearly a year’s worth of preparation and planning, we are delighted that our congregation has been co-sponsoring a Syrian refugee family under the auspices of Lutheran Social Services, our local resettlement agency. This family of five, which includes two young daughters and a young son, arrived on April 12, during the holiday of Passover.

Their successful integration into our country and the Greater Washington area has been facilitated directly by Adas Israel Congregation and its refugee response team, along with the wider community. This is a sacred obligation and opportunity for us to actualize our core Jewish values of compassion and justice. The timing of their arrival, though unplanned, was obviously especially noteworthy and poignant for us, as we prepared to immerse ourselves in the holiday of Passover, and recalled our own story of escaping degradation and journeying towards safety, freedom and dignity. We know that our collective story is this Syrian family’s current personal reality. And their reality is now our responsibility.

In addition to resettling this family, and in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), ten Adas Israel families will pilot a family mentorship program with five refugee families in the DC area. The IRC welcomes thousands of displaced persons each year and helps them to rebuild their lives with the support of the local community. While this program has been employed successfully in other cities, Adas families are the pilot group for recently resettled refugee families in this region. Through mentorship, we will serve as their close allies, advocates, and guides as we assist them on their path to self-sufficiency.

Please help Adas Israel support this newly arrived Syrian family and support families already living here. The commitment of time, energy, love, in-kind contributions, and money is considerable. Our estimated budget for these critical initiatives is close to $50,000. Since announcing our intention to co-sponsor a family last fall, we have raised nearly $30,000. We now seek to close that $20,000 gap. So please contribute whatever you can, either by sending a check to Adas Israel with “Refugee Fund” in the memo line, or, by donating online (adasisrael.org/tikkunolam). 100% of all dollars raised for this initiative will directly support refugee resettlement. Please visit www.adasisrael.org/tikkunolam to learn more about these refugee initiatives or to volunteer to get involved.

This community harnesses a tremendous amount of love, passion and compassion. We look forward now to this profound opportunity to share it with those who need it most. ✭
Seven Blessings Class
Explore Judaic Values & Practices that Build a Jewish Home
Tuesday Evenings, May 2–23
This class, taught by the Adas clergy alongside relationship experts, is for couples recently married, prepping to be married, or in committed life-partner relationships. The class will explore, in group and coupled learning, the Judaic values and practices that animate a Jewish home. It also will deal with universal issues such as managing family expectations, understanding and dealing with conflict, and the importance of understanding the family as a system to bring about the best of each individual partner. Open to members and non-members. Please contact Marcia Miller (Marcia.Miller@adasisrael.org) to register and for more information. Cost: members $80, non-members $120.

Memorial Plaques
New Memorial Plaques Dedicated at Passover Yizkor

Memorial plaques are a traditional and dignified way of honoring your dear departed. Each memorial plaque bears the name and yahrzeit of a loved one. The memorial light adjoining the plaque is illuminated on every yahrzeit and for every Yizkor service. These plaques are truly perpetual memorials. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call Marcia Miller at the synagogue office, 202-362-4433.
Ma Tovu: Bonnie & Sandy Roskes
HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS
Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

Why did you choose to move to Washington, DC? Why live in Cleveland Park?
Bonnie: We both grew up in Baltimore, and in 2001 were coming back to the US after five years in Israel. DC was a familiar place, close enough to family, and 16 years ago DC was more affordable than other East Coast cities (though not anymore!). We weren’t aiming for Cleveland Park; we were looking at houses in some other neighborhoods as well. We happened to buy a house here and started coming to Adas and building our community. It couldn’t have worked out better. CP is urban enough that our kids can get around independently, but with enough green space that it doesn’t feel too crowded.

Sandy, after Shabbat morning services, we can find you and many others in the Biran Beit Midrash, huddled around the coffee bar. I’m told that this is where folks come to take a shot of scotch before going to the congregational kiddush. How did this tradition get started, and can you recommend some good scotch?
Truth be told, “Kiddush Club” was introduced to Adas around 15 years ago by a few Georgetown refugees seeking a cheaper (ha!) and more egalitarian life in Cleveland Park. We started off as a small group, huddled quietly in the old Miller Chapel. It wasn’t exactly a secret, but it definitely wasn’t widely known or officially sanctioned. And it had a cliquey feel to be sure. When plans were made for the Biran and the rest of the building renovation, I asked Rabbi Steinlauf what he thought about bringing Kiddush Club there, out in the open. I thought it would be a great meeting point for people before heading down to the Kay, and Rabbi Steinlauf enthusiastically agreed. It is still a bring-your-own, participant-supplied thing, but has vastly expanded, with many people coming and sharing their newly found boutique scotch, bourbon, and the occasional rye. I think it has become a great place where the Smith service, the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, and the Havurah (and even Tot Shabbat parents!) come together. As for recommendations, what many people don’t realize is that whiskey, like wine and beer, is incredibly complex and accommodates a vast array of tastes. Come to Kiddush Club and I’ll help you find what you like!

Bonnie, you are one of the participants of our weekly Adas Morning Workout (Wednesday mornings at 9:15 am; come join us!). And when you’re not dancing with us, you can be seen running around Cleveland Park. What do you like most about exercising? And for those who might be new to it, what advice can you give them?
The Wednesday class is really fun—once you get used to working out in the room where you’re usually dressed up and eating fish balls. I used to run every day, but now I’ve cut back, substituting lower-impact workouts (I’m not as young as I thought, I guess). My job is pretty sedentary, so without regular exercise I think I’d have taken on the shape of my chair. Luckily you [Marcy] have shown us all sorts of torturous exercises you can do at home. If you live close to Adas and like to run (or walk), you can’t beat the trails in Rock Creek Park. My favorite run is through the zoo, before 9:00 am, when nobody is around. There’s a sea lion who likes to play, so I get a nice break mid-run.
In addition to the two of you being around Adas all the time, your five children can also always be found here—in services, religious school, babysitting some of our younger members, etc. What do your kids love most about the Adas community? Bonnie: Our kids have been going to the Adas Traditional Egalitarian Minyan every Shabbat pretty much since birth, and they’ve built their own communities just like Sandy and I have. There’s a nice number of current and former Jewish Primary Day School kids in the minyan, so there’s always someone to sit (or run around) with. After kiddush, we often end up with a bunch of kids in our house, or our kids run to friends’ houses, or we all end up at a park together. So Shabbat has taken on a relaxed, social, fun (and noisy) atmosphere for our family and friends.

Each of your children goes to a different school, which must make planning vacations extremely difficult. Where are your favorite places to go as a family? And if the two of you could escape together, where would you go?
Bonnie: We have different spring breaks, but planning other vacations hasn’t been difficult. Every year we spend Shavuot at a state park with some other families; it’s one highlight of the year for our whole family. We often take summer road trips to visit family friends, every year we do a beach trip with cousins, and we’ve taken a few trips to Israel. The last few summers we’ve sent all five kids to camp (yay, Ramah in the Rockies!), so Sandy and I have been able to escape alone a few times. Our best trip so far was hiking in the incredible Rocky Mountains, just the two of us, before spending Shabbat with our kids at camp. And now that the kids are getting older, we manage to get a weekend away now and then.

continued on page 21
Questioning Justice: New Israeli Novels
By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director

On his office wall, a lawyer friend has a striking contemporary art print of the classic biblical text, “Justice, justice, shall you pursue.” But is it always so clear what justice is? Some Israeli novels, newly translated into English, suggest not. For a deep dive into the wells of moral ambiguity, try Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, Judas by Amos Oz, and Two She-Bears by Meir Shalev (all available in our library). Here is a preview.

Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen
This gripping novel is part moral drama, part crime thriller. In the opening scene, Dr. Eitan Green, exhausted from a night shift at a Beersheva hospital, releases stress by racing his SUV at top speed down a desert road. To his horror, he hits a man—an African immigrant, who is so gravely injured that Eitan concludes he is beyond medical help. In the next instant, Eitan considers the havoc this reckless accident could wreak on his career and family and decides to “save himself,” since he can’t save the victim. He drives away.

But Eitan doesn’t fully escape responsibility. The next morning, the widow of the dead man confronts him, holding the wallet Eitan inadvertently dropped by his husband’s body. Sirkit, the widow, offers a deal. She will remain silent about the hit-and-run if Eitan provides night-time medical care to illegal African immigrants who will meet him in an abandoned garage. Trapped, Eitan agrees, and begins a double life, lying to his wife, children, and employer about his evening activities. Sirkit has her own guilty secrets, as do many of the other characters. There are no heroes in this unusual and provocative book.

Judas by Amos Oz
Set in Jerusalem in the winter of 1959–60, this novel focuses on three characters of three generations who share a home for several months. Shmuel Ash is a graduate school dropout, hired by Atalia Abravanel, a 45-year-old widow, as a live-in companion for her elderly father-in-law, Gershon Wald.

There is ongoing tension within the household about Atalia’s late father, Shealtiel Abravanel. Wald and Abravanel had both been ardent Zionists, but in the 1940s, Abravanel opposed statehood, arguing that Jews and Arabs should live together under an international protectorate. For his idealistic views, Abravanel was expelled from his positions of Zionist leadership and branded a traitor, a betrayer of his people. Shortly thereafter, Wald’s son (and Atalia’s husband) died in Israel’s War of Independence, which made the abstract disagreement tragically real.

To Shmuel, whose unfinished master’s thesis was on “Jewish Views of Jesus,” Abravanel is reminiscent of Jesus’s supposed betrayer, Judas. Shmuel contends that Judas was actually loyal to Jesus, but misjudged by history. Similarly, Abravanel and others like him were not traitors; their criticism of Israel sprang from deep loyalty to the Jewish people.

Two She-Bears by Meir Shalev
This is a tale of love, honor, and revenge over several generations of a family living on a moshava, an Israeli agricultural settlement. Ze’ev, the patriarch, came to the moshava, according to family lore, with “a rifle, a cow, a tree, and a woman.” He married the woman and murdered her lover with the rifle. That was the first of Ze’ev’s two acts of terrible violence for which his wife never forgave him. Yet there is good in Ze’ev: he lovingly raises his grandchildren after their mother abandons them. In the next generation, when Ze’ev’s great-grandson dies of snakebite on a father-son camping trip, Ze’ev is the only one who understands and can help the guilt-ridden father, Eitan. Twelve years later, when Ze’ev dies, Eitan embarks on his own journey of revenge, bringing the story full circle.

Ma Tovu continued from page 20
Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) is May 2. Your oldest daughter, Aviv, has been in Israel this semester studying with Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim. Why do you think it was important for her to travel to Israel? What is she enjoying most about this immersive experience?
Sandy: Aviv is spending her second semester of 10th grade in Israel, with TRY—Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim. They live in dorms, daven every day, attend high school classes, and enjoy the wonderful (not so much) cafeteria food. But the best part, and the reason the program exists, is the ICC—Israel Core Course. The kids go on tiyulim (excursions) all over the country, learning about ancient and modern history. They get to see it all come alive. We hope the program will open up avenues for her to spend more time there, maybe someday to live there. We figure if all of our kids do this program, maybe some will want to stay and eventually bring their parents with them. ✯
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**The Adas Fund**
- By: Alan & Dale Sorcher.
- **In Memory Of:** Mildred Hellerstein by Mark & Inna Lerner.

**Anne Frank House Fund**
- By: Andrew & Sandra Eskin, Steven & Jane Gilbert, Carolyn Rogers, Stanley M. Salus, Alan & Dale Sorcher.
- **In Memory Of:** Betty & George Levinson by Jackie Levinson. Robert “Cam” Morgan by Steve Schwat & Peter Bonnell. Lillian Kort by Ari Strauss.

**Bereavement Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Ricki Gerger’s cousin by Mark & Debby Joseph, David & Heather Polonsky.
- **Bernard & Rita Segerman Endowment Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Pearl G. Nathan by Rita Segerman.

**Cantor Saltzman Youth Music Endowment Fund**
- By: Sheldon S. Cohen. Sara Fram Helman by Faye F. Cohen.

**Celia & Louis Grossberg Cantorial Endowment Fund**
- By: Dr. David & Mrs. Mimi Strouse.

**Congregational Kiddush Fund**
- By: Dr. David & Mrs. Mimi Strouse.

**Daily Minyan Fund**
- By: Ricki Gerger, Rabbi Jonathan & Ellie Kremer.
- **In Honor Of:** Jonathan Gerst & Lisa Rosenberg by Matthew & Jennifer Gerst. Marriage of Philip Ugelow & Emily Feinberg by Lorna Grenadier. **In Memory Of:** John (Jack) Boam by Roberta Boam.

**Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Daryl Reich Rubenstein by Lee G. Rubenstein.

**Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Paya Shvets by Diane & Bernard Blum. Barbara C. Miller by Alan Smeye.

**Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Shirley Cohen’s special birthday by Dorothy Block.

**Executive Director Discretionary Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** David Polonsky & Ron Schwartz for so diligently managing the synagogue’s finances through another successful cycle by the Herman family.

**Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment**
- **In Memory Of:** Ellen Gelman by Frances Burka, John & Renata Kossow.

**Fund for the Future**
- **In Memory Of:** Sidney Stein by Wilma Bernstein. Joseph J. Cohen by Shirley Cohen.

**Garden of the Righteous**
- **In Memory Of:** Rhoda Alban by David Connick.

**Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith by Alan Roth. Hazzan Goldsmith for her wonderful trope class by Healey Sutton.

**Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Carmel & Barry Chiswick’s special birthdays by Lucy Hassell.

**Julius & Anna Wolfe Auditorium Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Liam Brinton making the honor roll at his school by Glenn & Cindy Easton, David & Heather Polonsky.

**Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects**
- **Congratulations On:** Beth Rosenwald being named one of Forbes 2017 top wealth women advisors by Jeri Ganz.
- **In Loving Memory Of:** Daniel Ezrin by Rhoda Ganz.
- **In Memory Of:** Dr. Joel S. Ganz by Rhoda Ganz.

**MakomDC Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Barry & Carmel Chiswick’s 150 years of life by Bruce Ray & April Rubin. Susie & Michael Gelman receiving the Lee G. Rubinstein Outstanding Leadership Award at the Eldavitch DCJCC Spring gala by David & Heather Polonsky. With Thanks To: Toni Bickart & Dr. Al Munzer for sharing their stories with the introduction to Judaism class by Herb & Sharon Schwartz.

**Mikvah Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Jack Green by Fradel Kramer.

**Mikvah Capital Campaign**
- By: Caleb & Alice Friend.
- **In Honor Of:** Hans Fisher’s 89th birthday by Ricki Gerger.

**Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Alexis Tinsley & Kerrith Rosenbaum for organizing great family-friendly Purim events by Chuck & Lesley Rich.
- **In Memory Of:** Shirley Rosenbaum by Ricki Gerger. Arnold Rothstein by Ricki Gerger, Mark & Debby Joseph. Bessie Siegel by Michelle Leavy Grayson.

**Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Alfred Backer by Eva Rehfeld.

**Offerings Fund**
- By: J. A. Seigel.
- **In Memory Of:** Birth of Vera Lenore Hoots by Jeffrey Herbst & Sharon Polansky.
- **In Memory Of:** Vera Liefman by Jim Sumner.

**Oliver & Bertha Atlas Youth Endowment Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Rita Atlas Wolfson & Sonia Atlas Levin by Alvin & Arline Atlas.

**Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund**
- **In Appreciation Of:** Rabbi Alexander by Sherry Kaiman.

**Rabbi Avis Miller Lifelong Learning Fund**
- **In Memory Of:** Helen Chernikoff by Larry Chernikoff.

**Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Rabbi Holtzblatt being selected as a Schusterman Family Foundation Fellow by David & Heather Polonsky.
- **In Appreciation Of:** Rabbi Holtzblatt by Sherry Kaiman. With Thanks To: Rabbi Holtzblatt for officiating at Raquel Frenk’s funeral by Frida Skolkin.
- **In Memory Of:** Laura Both by Charles & Deborah Both. Blanche Cantor by Jane Loeffler.

**Rabbi Rosenbaum Discretionary Fund**
- **In Honor Of:** Alexis Tinsley & Kerrith Rosenbaum for organizing great family-friendly Purim events by Chuck & Lesley Rich.
- **In Memory Of:** Dorothy Warren by Florence Meyer.

**Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund**
- **In Appreciation Of:** Rabbi Steinlauf’s honoring Gerry Daniel’s 100th birthday by Laurence Wolff & Miriam Daniel. With Great Appreciation For: Rabbi Steinlauf’s help during our recent bereavement over the loss of our mother, Mildred H. Robins by the family of Mildred Robins.
- **In Memory Of:** Rebecca Melamed by Harry & Judy Melamed.
Refugee Response Project
In Memory Of: Harriet Bickart, Renard Sanders, Florence Sanders, all by David & Toni Bickart.

Return Again/Community Shabbat Fund
In Appreciation Of: Entire Return Again Services team & staff by Sherry Kaiman.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

Rothstein Family Israel College Scholarship Fund
In Loving Memory Of: Bette Miriam Rothstein by Bob & Robin Berman.

Samuel & Jeannette Weiss Special Needs Fund
In Honor Of: Bob Cohen’s special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Samuel & Sadie Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund
In Memory Of: Leonore Leonard by Martin Kirsch.

Shelley Remer Gan Ha’Yeled Enrichment Fund
In Honor Of: Anita & Bob Wellen’s grandson, Aaron Breitkopf, becoming a bar mitzvah by Hedy Pearlman.

Siddur Lev Shalem Praybook Fund

Sisterhood Donations
In Honor Of: Julie Weissman by Ricki Gerger. Shirley Cohen’s 90th birthday by Carole Lerner.

Social Action Fund
By: Steve & Maryse Horblitt.
In Honor Of: Ellie Aladjem & Frederick Horowitz becoming b’nai mitzvah by Mark & Debby Joseph.

SOME
By: Alan & Dale Sorcher.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund
In Gratitude For: Baruch Weiss sharing his learning on a weekly basis by Bruce Ray & April Rubin.
In Memory Of: Edgar Roggen & Vera Leifman by Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund


Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund


Youth Activities Fund


Adas Night Out at Theater J!
Broken Glass by Arthur Miller
Directed by Aaron Posner
Thursday, June 29
Join other Adas theater lovers for a night out at Theater J for a riveting psychological drama from one of America’s master playwrights, Arthur Miller. Sylvia Gellburg has suddenly, mysteriously, become paralyzed from the waist down, and her husband, a self-denying Jew, can’t figure it out why. Set in Brooklyn during the rampage of Kristallnacht in 1938, this rare and gripping drama demands we confront our fears, our assumptions, and our anguish. Miller balances private and public morality in this astonishing and electrifying play about being American, being married, and coming to terms with one's own identity.

To purchase tickets, visit www.edjcc.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 June 29, please call the Theater J Box Office at 202-777-3210.
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David Polonsky, Executive Director
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Rabbi Aaron Alexander, Rabbi
Cantor Ariane Brown, Cantor
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UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINE—
July/August: Friday, May 26, at noon