

Adas Israel Congregation December / Kislev–Tevet

CHRONICLE



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From the President

By Ricki Gerger



"You'd think in a congregation this size it'd be easy to get a *minyan*." I've heard this more than once, sometimes said sadly, sometimes with the edge of anger, by someone who's come to the daily *minyan* to say *kaddish* and can't. It hurts whenever I hear it, so much that I want to heighten awareness of the help you can provide fellow congregants who need a *minyan*.

Many of us who've said *kaddish*, whether for 30 days or 11 months, began deep in despair; we "rode the wave" through pain and sadness and loss. For some of us, it's the hardest thing we've ever done. Slowly, we found comfort in the routine itself. And from there we began to gather comfort from the people around us. The people who say *kaddish* together, with others who help make a *minyan*, form a sacred community that can last a lifetime.

Beth Heifetz has expressed the power of the *minyan* beautifully. She lost her beloved father three years ago. When she finished saying *kaddish*, she spoke to the morning *minyan* and related eight ways the experience touched her. I have permission to share her final paragraph:

But perhaps most important of all, I experienced the **power of ten**. Each morning you all come to morning *minyan*, maybe to say *kaddish* yourself, maybe because you *daven* each morning, or maybe, just maybe, so that I and others are able to recite *kaddish*.

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clergycorner



One of the reasons I love *Hanukkah* so much is that it invites us to experience each and every day in a robust and interconnected way. Which is to say, each candle both stands on its own but is connected to what was, and what will be. To that end, I offer these eight *kavanot* (devotional/intentional focus points) as potential pathways to elevate your *hanukkiyah*-lighting ceremony each night.

Night #1: Beginning the *Hanukkah* journey demands seeing what lies on the other side of just one, lonely, flickering illumination. Miracles often hide themselves in a crack that only a singularly focused flame can penetrate. Tonight you have the opportunity to see what no other light will allow you to capture in this way—the miracle of one-ness. In what ways do you experience disparate parts of your life coming together, unified, in a miraculous way?

Night #2: Tonight we tangibly experience, for the first time, what it means to ascend in holiness, rather than descend (*ma'alim b'kodesh ve-lo moridin*). We add a candle to the *hanukkiyah*. What's different in searching for—and discovering—miracles with the shimmer of two flames, rather than one? What might you find in between the two, hidden until this point? Whom do you see amidst the two lights? Whom might you like to see?

Night #3: Tonight we understand why the rabbis asked us to place our candles in a straight row. As we increase the number of flames, it becomes difficult to see the distinctions that exist among them, so we line them up for clarity. So, too, our lives. We so often, and naturally, surround ourselves with endless distractions hoping to fill the void and blur reality, but ultimately obscuring truth. By demanding that each and every light be seen for itself, our tradition asks us to recognize that life often calls for not only quantity, but the quality of distinction, individuality, and singular moments that emerge as holy.

Night #4: Tonight we are halfway there: 50 percent, sitting in the liminal space of what was and what will be. It is so easy to look back or to dream forward. But a half-filled *hanukkiyah* invites us to live in precisely the place we are right now, in this moment. Our fast-paced lives don't often allow for moments of the here and now. Don't let this one pass you by.

Night #5: Tonight five candles encourage us to reflect on the miracle of Torah (five books) in our lives. Explicit Torah (study and *mitzvot*) and implicit Torah (living the lessons of our familial and historical ancestors) shape us in ways that are quite remarkable. Torah, in its grandest definition, is nothing short of a miracle for the Jewish people. Stop for a moment and reflect on the ways in which it affects you.

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Happy Hanukkah!

Why Do We Celebrate Hanukkah?

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

When Do We Observe Hanukkah?

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

This year, *Hanukkah* begins on **Tuesday evening, December 12**. Candelighting should take place in the evening.

Hanukkah Practices

Each Jewish home should have a *Hanukkah menorah*. The Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop has a wide range of *hanukkiot* and other *Hanukkah* items available for purchase.

Hanukkah Calendar Highlights

Nightly (Dec. 12–19, 6:00 pm):

Community *menorah* lightings on Connecticut Avenue patio

Daily (When Gan Is in Session):

Community lighting in Gan space

Friday, Dec. 15, 7:00 pm: *Kabbalat Shabbat Hanukkah Oneg*

Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:00 am: Dan Kaufman Memorial *Latke* Party, starting with a spirited sing-along in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary



Combined Community Shabbat Service on Friday, December 29, 6:00 pm

Continuing a tradition of more than 30 years, Adas Israel Congregation will again participate in a combined community service on Friday, December 29, to be held this year at Temple Sinai. Join Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, officers, and congregants with Washington Hebrew, Temple Sinai, and Temple Micah.

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

We encourage your attendance as a way of strengthening the inter-synagogue relationships and of marking the transition in the calendar in a religious manner. There will be *no Kabbalat Shabbat* Service at Adas Israel on Friday, December 29.

Up Close and Personal

From January 2018 through April we would like to light up the windows of the Biran Beit Midrash



with collective candlesticks shared by the Adas Israel community. We are looking for personal *Shabbat* candlesticks to be lovingly displayed. They can be homemade, made by your kids, or just ones that make you smile! Please send in a photo of your candlesticks, height dimensions, and a few sentences about why they are treasured to Carole Klein with the subject: Up Close and personal – candlesticks.

Please note: If you only have one set of candlesticks, please do not bring them to Adas! It is important to us that each home has candles to light every Friday night in order to lift the spirit of *Shabbat*. ✨

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Place the *Hanukkah menorah* in a conspicuous place in your home. The lights should be kindled as soon as possible after nightfall with all members of the family present. Any members of the family, including children, may kindle the *Hanukkah* lights.

A famous symbol of *Hanukkah* is the *dreidel*, a four-faced top, with one Hebrew letter on each face, as follows: Each letter is the beginning

of a Hebrew word—*Nes G'dol Haya Sham*—"a great miracle happened there." Various games can be played with the *dreidel*, and it is a custom among some to eat potato *latkes* at this time because they are fried in oil.

In addition to being a "home" holiday, *Hanukkah* is celebrated in the synagogue. Hallel Psalms are recited, there is an additional Torah reading in honor of *Hanukkah*, and a special *haftarah* is chanted on *Shabbat Hanukkah*.

How to Light Hanukkiah Candles

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

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

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

Blessings for Lighting the Menorah

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

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

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Baruch ata Adonai, Ehloheinu mehlech haolam, sheasa nisim laavoteinu bayamim hahaim baz'man hazeh. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who did wondrous things for our ancestors, in days of old at this season.

ON THE FIRST NIGHT, THE FOLLOWING IS ADDED:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.
Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam, Shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who has granted us life, sustained us, and permitted us to celebrate this joyous festival.

ALL JOIN IN SINGING MA'OZ TZUR:

Ma'oz tzur y'shuati lecha na'eh l'shabei-ah.
Tikon beit t'filati, v'sham todah n'za-bei-ah.
Leit takhin matbei-ah, mi-tzar ha'm'na-bei-ah.
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah.
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah.



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Night #6: Tonight another lesson of the rabbis *vis-à-vis* the *hanukkiah* permeates us. Namely, unlike the light of *Shabbat* candles, which ought to be used for enjoyment, the *Hanukkah* lights serve only one purpose—publicizing the miracle (*pirsumei nissa*). The bright light emanating from six candles nags at us to use them for the purpose for which they were created—actual light. But we can't. We won't. Instead, we vow to make public—as the flames demand—the resilience to imagine that the "seeming" impossible is actually possible. We affirm that we don't have to accept the world as darkness. That we, that Israel, that Jews, each of us—has a mandate to claim our place in history as miraculous and human, both, and that we can choose to either perpetuate or deny that miracle.

Night #7: Tonight, the penultimate night. In many ways, the essential night of *Hanukkah*. It isn't often in Jewish life that the complete cycle of seven is followed by a natural eight. But when it does, it invites us to bask in temporary completeness, only to stand up the next day with the realization that true completion is but a religious illusion, a falsehood that begs us to see beneath and between the lines of certainty to something deeper and more profound . . . the wholeness of process, rigorous doubt, and receptiveness to the sacred unknown.

Night #8: Tonight, a fully lit *hanukkiah*. Until this moment we have instinctively fulfilled our rabbinic mandate to elevate only in moments of holiness. One more candle each night, succumbing to the natural flow. But tonight we reach the pinnacle and live with the powerful image for an entire year. Our challenge—harness the past eight nights of transcendence, hold them tight, let them insert sparks of light into crevices of spiritual darkness . . . and crave beginning again next year. ✨



Thank You, Sheri Brown! Gan HaYeled Preschool Director for Seven Incredible Years

As we recently shared with our Gan families, and shared with many mixed emotions, this schoolyear, will be Sheri Brown's final year as Director of the Gan, as she begins to enter the next exciting chapter of her professional life. Sheri has lovingly served our Gan community

through a wonderful period of transformation and growth here at Adas Israel. During that time, Sheri implemented and grew the Gan's full-day program, expanded offerings for families with young children, worked with the Education Department to bring the Gan into the wider educational arc of Adas, and partnered in a comprehensive strategic planning effort that will now pave the way for the transition in leadership and next steps here at our beloved Gan.

As we move forward in an exciting, nationwide search for our next Gan Director, we are pleased to announce the formation of a Search Committee led by co-chairs Toni Bickart and Ian Halpern. Appointed by the president, and comprised of a diverse group of current and former Gan families, as well as other committed community members, this committee will partner with our Gan staff and families, Adas Israel Clergy, and Board of Directors as we identify and recruit an outstanding director for our preschool community. The committee is as follows:

GAN DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Toni Bickart & Ian Halpern

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dennis Yedwab, Jessika Wellisch, Tali Stein, Doug Rand, Matt Lawlor, Jennifer Gerst, Denise Gershowitz, Janice Mostow (VP for Education, ex-officio), Ricki Gerger (Synagogue President, ex-officio)

We are beyond grateful to Sheri for carrying us to this moment of possibility for the Gan. We are also thankful that she will be deeply involved in both this search process for her successor and a smooth transition.

We are looking forward to an excellent year at the Gan under Sheri's continued leadership and will, of course, have ample time for celebration and *l'hitraot* at the end of the year. In the meantime, please join us in extending our heartfelt gratitude to Sheri for her years of dedicated service, and to our entire Gan team of staff and educators who continue to make this such a nurturing and holy place for our children and their families.

Our parent body's goals for our Gan are an integral part of this process in particular. This next exciting chapter in our Gan community will continue to reflect the loving spirit and heartfelt dedication that we have always cherished among our Gan families, students, staff, and community. The committee's first step will be to seek our parents' input through a schoolwide survey. All responses will directly affect our search and will be instrumental in crafting a comprehensive job description and candidate profile. We deeply value and depend on your participation, so please be sure to watch your e-mails for this survey as well as future updates and requests for insight

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Musical Moments

Brought to you by Cantor Arianne Brown & the Musical Moments Committee

Sounds of Faith: Songs of Hanukkah at the National Museum of American History



On Sunday, December 3, Cantor Arianne Brown will perform *Hanukkah* music, peppered with teachings about the holiday, at 2:30 pm. The museum will also host a *Hanukkah* activity for children.

This is a free, special holiday installment at the Smithsonian's Sounds of Faith music series. Sounds of Faith programming is part of the Religion in America initiative, part of the Smithsonian Holiday Festival.

Israel Through the Decades

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 @7:00 PM



We hope you will join us as we look toward Israel's 70th anniversary with a celebration of 70 years of song. Our *shirah betzibur* community sing-along session will be led by headliner groovy Israeli band Banot.

We will begin with a musical *Havdalah*, sing hit songs of Israel from each decade, and listen to Banot perform several of its original pieces, representing the new wave of Israeli music. Our evening will continue with Israeli dancing and dessert. This evening is an intergenerational celebration meant for all ages.

DC Klezmer Workshop



Are you a musician who always wanted to play klezmer music? Does your foot start tapping every time you hear Yiddish songs? Do you want to learn the differences among a Bulgar, a Sher, a Zhok, and a Khosidl? Then you'll want to join us for the first-ever DC Klezmer Workshop at Adas Israel.

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Bridges and Boundaries: The Contours of Community

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

Over the course of the year, our rabbis and distinguished scholars will lead us in guided text study, conversations, and presentations that explore the Jewish tradition's essential teachings on

defining holy community. Together we'll navigate the particular values that bind us and the universal ideas that inspire us, and then think together about where they do and do not intersect. To learn more visit adasisrael.org/makomdc. Register for lectures or classes online or by calling Courtney Tisch, 202-362-4433, ext. 125



2017–2018 December Mendelson Shabbat Scholar

Scholar: Rabbi Dr. Judith
Hauptman
Post-Kiddush Halakhah Class
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
@ 1:00 PM

Join us as our December Mendelson *Shabbat* Scholar, Rabbi Dr. Judith Hauptman, guest teaches this month's text-based class, after *kiddush*, using *halakhah* (Jewish life and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic. Rabbi Judith Hauptman is the E. Billi Ivry Professor Emerita of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture at the Jewish Theological Seminary as well as a scholar who primarily researches the history of the Talmud.

Ongoing Learning:



The Text 2.0: In-Depth
Halakhah (Jewish Law) with
Rabbi Aaron Alexander
TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 5,
FEBRUARY 6, & APRIL 10
@ 7:30 PM

Rabbi Alexander will lead learners in a textual exploration of a topic in Jewish law, using original

sources without translation. This series is designed primarily for those with previous experience studying classical rabbinic texts in Hebrew/Aramaic.



Beginners' Hebrew
SUNDAYS @ 10:30 AM

Give yourself the gift of learning to read Hebrew. Whether you've never seen a Hebrew letter before, or you're a little bit more advanced, these classes will help you reach your next skill level. Contact Marcia Miller at 202-362-

4433, ext. 112, for more information.



Megillat Esther Trope with
Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith
SUNDAYS @ 10:15 AM

Hazzan Goldsmith's Sunday Class series continues this month with 3 classes teaching the Trope for *Megillat Esther*. Class participants will read small part of the *Megillah* at our *Purim* Celebration in February. Class Dates are: December 3, 10 and 17



Boker Or Shabbat Study
SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

DECEMBER 2, Rabbi Herb Schwartz
DECEMBER 9, Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
DECEMBER 16, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
DECEMBER 23 & 30, No Class
Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.



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

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM

Please join us Friday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash for an exclusive look at the weekly *parsha*. On the first and second Friday of the month, Rabbi Holtzblatt will explore

the *parsha* through the lens of *Hassidut* and mysticism; on the third and fourth Fridays, Rabbi Alexander will use the Talmud as the prism for the weekly reading. ❀



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. ❀



From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

In December, it is often easy to focus on the end of the month. Especially in schools where there are tests, ends of semesters and winter breaks to look forward to, we can lose sight of how much ground there is still to cover before we get there. This is the time to dig a little deeper, to find those reserves we need when the days seem so much shorter

and darker. There is still a lot to learn, many things to celebrate, but also the everyday continues, just a little colder. This month, before we put our energy towards the end, let's make a commitment to channeling some of that enthusiasm and warmth into the beginning days.

Snapshot on the Religious School— Fifth-Grade Jewish History



In fifth grade we introduce the students to the enormity of Jewish history by focusing on the history of the Jewish diaspora. What happens when the Jews are sent into exile from their land? Where and why do they end up in so many diverse places? Why do the Jews of Ashkenaz/Eastern Europe, Sephard/Spain, and Mizrach/Middle East have

such different experiences and customs? How do they manage to survive tremendous hardships and still flourish in their learning and spirituality?

The highlight of the year is the Important Jews of the Middle Ages biography project. Each student is assigned a Jewish hero (Rashi, Rambam, Dona Gracia, Ba'al Shem Tov, etc.) to research, prepare a poster on, and teach their classmates about. This curriculum has been taught for many years by Sharon Gelboin-Katz, who began her work at Adas in 1990, after living in Israel for 10 years. She brings not only her excitement about Jewish history to her teaching but her love of Israel, as well.

—Pam Gorin

With each passing week our students and teachers fall into a routine; I, too, have learned to establish a routine of my own as I learn and grow in this new community. I joined the educational team immediately following the *chagim* (holidays) and was quickly welcomed into this warm environment by the students, teachers, Adas staff, and congregants.

As we enter the holiday of *Hanukkah*, I value the opportunity for family and friends to gather together and join in lighting the candles to remember the heroic story of the Maccabees. It is a time for communities to join together in one voice to recite the *b'rachot* over the candles and sing songs in celebration of the miracle of *Hanukkah*. As the holiday proceeds, the *hanukkah* grows brighter with each passing day and, with it, the communal feeling of togetherness. It is my hope that we continue to grow stronger

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Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 2: Kindergarten Consecration in the Smith at 11:00am.

Sunday, Dec. 17: Dan Kaufman Memorial Latke Party- 11:00am.

Tuesday, Dec. 19–Sunday, Dec. 31: WINTER BREAK, NO CLASSES

Religious School resumes Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.



Gan HaYeled

The excitement at the Gan continues in December. Not only is Open House season in full swing, but *Hanukkah* is coming and *latkes* are sizzling. The entire Adas building is full of the joy of children singing, playing *dreidel*, and basking in the glow of *hanukkiot*. If you're at Adas during December, you're likely to smell Gan *latkes*.

Students are also busy investigating a variety of topics, from plant growth to food science to recycling. The bulletin boards in our halls will give you a glimpse into the explorations taking place in our classrooms.

Most Gan students are referred to us by current and former Gan families. If you have friends looking for a top-notch preschool, let them know about opportunities for full- or part-year programs at the Gan.

To register for a Gan Open House in December or January, call the Gan Office or click on the Admissions tab on the Gan web site, adasisrael.org/gan. ❀

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW)

Our imperfections give us a key to connection. Perfection closes one off to the outside world because you believe you have everything you need in your utopia. Failure or imperfection seeks connection--an open mind to rebuild, to keep stretching until something else emerges.

—Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

In order to *rebuild*, we need to cultivate resilience. This can be challenging, as we need resilience most during difficult times. Our Jewish history is filled with inspiring examples of resilience, and we find this quality in many we admire. Lessons can also be found in nature. Researchers at Biosphere 2, an Earth Science facility, made a wonderful discovery about trees that speaks to the essential elements of resilience. In this artificial environment, trees grew more rapidly, but then fell over before reaching maturation. Scientists found that a lack of wind prevented the trees from developing stress wood, which helps them maximize sun absorption and become more solid; they grew more quickly, yet without being able to support themselves and survive against the elements. In our own lives, it seems that stress is never in short supply. But like trees that develop stress wood to keep them strong, we can build our own resilience in many ways. We strengthen through the love and compassion of community connections; with the steady breaths and flexibility we practice in yoga; in the focused attentiveness of meditation; and through the joy that arises, even sometimes to our surprise, during song and prayer. JMCW wishes everyone a Happy *Hanukkah* and may you find strength and resilience in the miracle of the *Hanukkah* lights.

Upcoming JMCW Services, Programs, and Workshops

What Now? Meditation for Times of Transitions, Change, and Upheaval with Yael Shy

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:30 PM

Jewish meditation teacher and author Yael Shy shares strategies and wisdom from Judaism, psychology, and other traditions to help ease our way through transitions. This workshop includes some meditation practice, teaching, and discussion. Yael's book will be available for purchase.

Cost: \$10; Website registration required

Hineni — Here I Am: Mapping our Spiritual Coordinates through Yoga & Kabbalah with Rabbi Ben Shalva
TWO-WEEK MINI-SERIES.

SUNDAYS: DEC. 10 AND 17 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

According to both yoga and *Kabbalah*, we must explore our bodies, hearts, minds, and souls in order to master the self and connect with our Creator. Join us for an experiential, on-the-mat exploration of these four worlds. *Beginners Welcome. Please wear movement clothes.* **Cost: \$24 for both sessions; Website registration required**

Return Again to Shabbat w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander, & The Return Again Band, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 6:30 PM

This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! In the style of our innovative outdoor *Kol Nidre* service.

Weekly Wednesday Evening Meditation 7:30–8:30 PM, DECEMBER 13 AND 20 (Note that Meditation during the first week

of this month will be on Tuesday, December 5, with Yael Shy.)

With four alternating leaders, these sessions include a teaching, an exploration of Jewish meditation techniques, and a silent meditation sit.

WEEKLY YOGA

***Moving Meditation**

Vinyasa Flow

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30–7:20 PM

Join us for a vigorous flow, and dive deep into your physical practice. Draw Jewish concepts into the body and initiate your own moving meditation. And then stay afterward to join the weekly Wednesday meditation.

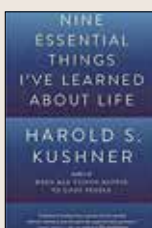
***Moving Meditation Awakening Flow**

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM– 2:15 PM Morning flow promises to awaken and stimulate the sacred body through a full exploration of asana. This signature class draws inspiration from Mussar, *Kabbalah*, and the wisdom of Jewish thinkers. ✨

For updates and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page, www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/ or the JMCW Facebook Group.

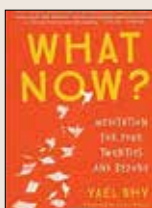


JMCW Recommends . . .



Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner.

Rabbi Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, speaks in his latest work (2015) to the spiritual challenges we face in our time. As always, Rabbi Kushner offers timely and wise advice that is both practical and rich in Jewish tradition.



What Now? Meditation for Your Twenties and Beyond by Yael Shy

Yael is the senior director of Global Spiritual Life at New York University and the founder and director of MindfulNYU, the largest campus-wide mindfulness initiative in the country. She will lead a special JMCW event at Adas on

Tuesday, December 5.

The Adas Library has many 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.

You are wherever your thoughts are, make sure your thoughts are where you want to be.

—Rabbi Nachman of Breslov

lifecycle

Milestones

Births

Emerson Galen, son of Rebecca & Justin Galen, was born October 3.
Noah Gabriel Lieberman, son of Stephanie & Steve Lieberman, was born October 10.

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

B'nai Mitzvah



Madeleine Miller, December 9

Madeleine, daughter of Margot Schwadron and Todd Miller, is a seventh grader at Sheridan School. She began her Jewish education as a Puppy at Gan HaYeled and has been attending the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten. For her *mitzvah* project, Madeleine is sharing her love of soccer with children with special needs through the Peer Buddy Program organized by Open Door

Sports. Madeleine is excited to celebrate her *bat mitzvah* with her parents, grandmothers Judy Schwadron and Barbara Miller, and her aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. At this special time, Madeleine is thinking of her grandfathers, Marty Schwadron and Barry Miller, both of blessed memory.



Courtney Pine, December 16

Courtney, daughter of Philip Pine and Deborah Andringa, is a seventh grader at the Maret School in Washington, DC. Her Jewish education began in *Kitah Aleph* at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Courtney is sharing her *simcha* with her close friends and loving family. Her *bat mitzvah* project will be collecting books to donate

to less-fortunate children. Along with her service at Adas Israel, she will also celebrate her *bat mitzvah* in Israel with her family.



Elliot Bramson, December 23

Elliot is a seventh grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. He previously attended the Jewish Primary Day School in the Nation's Capital and Gan HaYeled. Elliot is an avid baseball and flag football player, and he enjoys spending summers at Camp Ramah in New England. Elliot is sharing this *simcha* with his parents Jim and Nanci, his older siblings Bennett and Sabrina, and the rest of his

extended family.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

David Bubes
Betty "Bess" Torgoff
Ada Linowes
Lorain Rothstein

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

May Berkowitz, mother of Thea Mason
Lucille Golden, mother of Linda Golden
Adine H. Holland, mother of Gilbert Holland
Bonnie Jacobson, sister of Suzanne Stutman
Paul Kimelman, father of Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block

Mary Nissenson, sister of Carol Nissenson
Jean Rafalowicz, stepmother of Linda Moskowitz
Muriel Rothman, mother of Anne Schenof
Berta (Bracha) Siniak de Feldman, mother of Marina Feldman
Doris Wacker Wolin, mother of Neal Wolin

Life Cycle Information

When Death Occurs

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

Bereavement Committee

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

Hesed Committee

The Adas Israel Hesed Committee is committed to fostering a caring, compassionate, and giving community. If you are experiencing an illness, or have surgery or medical treatments planned, or if someone in your family has had a new baby, please let the Hesed Committee know. We want to reach out to you. Contact hesed@adasisrael.org.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah

Our *mikvah* is a sacred space where Jews can mark life transitions with powerful physical ritual. Immersing in a *mikvah* connects the body to the water cycle of our planet and to the sources of life. People visit our *mikvah* to observe the *mitzvah* of monthly immersion; to celebrate *s'machot*; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom, or *bar* or *bat mitzvah*; to convert to Judaism. To learn more about our *mikvah* or to schedule an appointment, contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah. ❧

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

Hanukkah means gifts for family and friends, little presents for each night of *Hanukkah* for the kids, decorations for the home, menorahs, and candles, candles, candles!

We have an outstanding array of items from which to choose.
Shop early and often!



Gift Shop Hours

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

PLEASE NOTE: We will be closed December 24, 25, and 31.

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

sisterhoodnews

Upcoming and Continuing Events 'Sisterhood in Your Community' Brunches

Sisterhood members are getting together each month for a dairy brunch to schmooze and get to know each other. If you'd like to host a brunch on a Sunday morning of your choice, or to attend a brunch, please contact June Kress, 202-316-3439 or junebkress@gmail.com. The next brunch is scheduled for December 3.



Sample of jewelry by Sisterhood member Barbara Friedell

Jewelry-Making for Hanukkah Sunday, December 3, 12:30–2:00 pm, Funger Hall

Repurpose your vintage jewelry for the perfect gift for yourself or a loved one. You supply the materials; we'll help you create jewelry that sparkles. Bring extra beads to fill in and enhance—available at a local bead store, like Beadazzled on Connecticut Ave. or Etsy.com; medium-gauge wire; crimp tubes and crimp covers; and some tools. These supplies are very inexpensive to buy online (Amazon.com). In addition, Michaels has very inexpensive beads and supplies. Or, just come and watch a demonstration! RSVP to Barbara Friedell: (H) 202-813-3781, (C) 702-630-5106, bhfriedell@yahoo.com.

demonstration! RSVP to Barbara Friedell: (H) 202-813-3781, (C) 702-630-5106, bhfriedell@yahoo.com.

Hanukkah Book Event for Pre-Schoolers and Their Special Adults

Sunday, December 10, 10:00 am

Brought to you by Sisterhood and the Rose Ruth Freudberg Sisterhood Library. Author Pam Ehrenberg will read from her latest book, *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas*.

Hold the date—Sunday, January 28, at 10:00 am, for a book discussion TBA..

Sisterhood Wraps Gifts at Politics & Prose, December 10, 10:00 am–8:00 pm (2-hour shifts),

Each year, Sisterhood volunteers for an entire day of gift-wrapping at Politics & Prose in the 5000 block of Connecticut Avenue. The suggested donation by customers is \$1 per book, with proceeds going to the Washington Literacy Center, which teaches adults to read. Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts that day. Please call or e-mail Carol Ansell (202-362-4433, Carol.Ansell@adasisrael.org), if you can spare a couple of hours on Sunday, December 10. It's a wonderful *mitzvah* and a lot of fun!



Cantor Ari Brown

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood Studying the Role of Music in Jewish Tradition with Cantor Ari Brown Tuesday, December 12, 10:00 am, in the Biran Beit Midrash

Please join *Weekday Torah with Sisterhood* at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 12, in the Biran Beit Midrash, when Cantor Ari Brown will lead a discussion about the role of music in Jewish tradition. We will study the

psalms, liturgy, and poetry associated with *Hanukkah*.

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. These classes, open to the entire Adas

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Sisterhood News continued from page 10

Israel community, meet monthly, except during the summer, usually 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.



Mah Jongg Group Open to All Thursdays, 1:00 pm, in Sisterhood Hall

Mah jongg will continue weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm (except on Thanksgiving). Bring your National Mah Jongg 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. To express interest and to RSVP for the mah jongg group, contact Barbara Friedell, bhfriedell@yahoo.com.

Learn to Chant from the Torah in Time for Sisterhood Shabbat

You've heard words of Torah; here's your chance to chant them (and to do so with confidence). Please contact Marilyn Kincaid, Marilyn.Kincaid0999@verizon.net, if you'd like to read Torah at Sisterhood Shabbat on Saturday, March 10. If this is your first time or you need a refresher, Marilyn is willing to teach you this skill this fall.

New Group, Sisterhood Works from Home Monday, December 18, 10:00 am–noon

You are invited to join a new group of women who work from their homes. Our purpose is to help support each other in our endeavors, network, advise, make us feel more connected, and nurture our dreams. Next get-together is Monday, December 18, 10:00 am–noon. For more information, contact June Kress, junebkress@gmail.com or 202-316-3439. All are welcome.

Sisterhood Sews, Knits, and Crafts December 20, 7:30–9:00 pm, Youth Lounge

Sisterhood Sews, Knits, Crafts (oh, my!) on Wednesday, December 20, 7:30–9:00 pm. Future meeting dates are Wednesdays, January 17 and February 21. Contact Lesleyfrost0@gmail.com for more information.

Sisterhood Shabbat Saturday–Sunday, March 10–11

We look forward to hearing this year's Mozelle Saltz Guest Scholar, **Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner**, JTS Vice Chancellor emerita.

The 5778 Torah Fund Campaign Continues



Give to Torah Fund. Adas Israel participates in the Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund campaign to support clergy and Judaic lay professional candidates, including aspiring teachers, social workers, and administrators, studying at Conservative/Masorti higher institutions. Visit the Sisterhood web site, <http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/>, for more information on the

campaign and how to give. ❀

To keep up with Sisterhood, check out our web site, www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood, and see our announcements via @adas, e-mails, and the weekly Order of Service.

continued in right column



SPECIAL SISTERHOOD EVENT— A Woman and Her Genome: What Every Jewish Woman Should Know About her Genetic Makeup

Sunday, January 7, 11:00 am–noon

The science and practice of genetics has grown enormously in the past decade. Testing is being done both to help women of reproductive age know their risks of, and often prevent having, a child with a genetic defect such as Tay-Sachs disease or sickle cell anemia, and help women (and men) to know their risk of various cancers, most commonly breast, ovarian, and colon.

In many cases, this knowledge can help a person make decisions that will help him or her take action to decrease the risk of developing such a cancer or find it earlier when it can be better treated or, in some cases, cured. This session will provide a speaker on both of these topics and offer the opportunity to those who want to be tested for genetic mutations for over 100 diseases that can be transmitted to their offspring. The test requires saliva that is tested through JScreen.

Speakers: **Evelyn Karson, MD, PhD**, obstetrician/geneticist, will discuss those genetic diseases that can be detected by a saliva test in men and women of reproductive age prior to conception or in the first trimester of pregnancy. **Dr. Dee Dee Shiller, DO**, a gynecologist in Baltimore, will speak about genetic testing for mutations that predispose certain men and women to various cancers. ❀

december2017
Kislev–Tevet 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
268 Kislev 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	279 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2810 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2911 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Workout 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Yoga 7:00 pm JSC Events: Janice Garfunkel Memorial Lecture 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism: Exploring Jewish Diversity 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm Gan Open House	3012 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	113 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Kabbalat Shabbat Service; Led by the Weiss Family 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service with Rabbi Alexander 8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinners	2 PARSHAT VAYISHLACH14 Kislev 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00am Kindergarten Consecration with Rabbi Rosenbaum 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 5:28 pm Havdalah 5:30 pm 5780 B’nai Mitzvah Program: Kabbalat Parsha: Receiving the Torah
315 Kislev 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:15 am What Do I Do Again? Adult Education Class w/ Hazzan Goldsmith 10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners 10:30 am JMCW Classes: Wise Aging 11:00 am Yogic Flow 12:30 pm Sisterhood Jewelry Making for Hanukkah 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	416 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	517 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm The Text 2.0: Advanced Halakhah w/ Rabbi Alexander 7:30 pm Meditation Scholar Workshop with Yael Shy	618 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Workout 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Yoga 7:00 pm JSC: Book Talk: Embroidery and Sacred Text: New Designs in Judaic Needlework 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism: December Holidays 8:15 pm JSC: Ask the Rabbis Live: How Can We Disagree Jewishly?	719 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	820 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt & Rabbi Alexander 6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner	9 PARSHAT VAYESHEV21 Kislev 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bat Mitzvah: Madeleine Miller 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:00 pm Intro. to Judaism Shabbaton Lunch 12:45pm Shabbat Mincha Service 1:00 pm Shabbat Speaker: Alexander Shapiro and Yotam Polizer 5:27 pm Havdalah 7:00 pm Melava Malka Singalong
1022 Kislev 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:15 am What Do I Do Again? Adult Education Class w/ Hazzan Goldsmith 10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners 11:00 am Hineni: Here I Am: Mapping our Spiritual Coordinates through Yoga & Kabbalah 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1123 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	12 EREV HANUKKAH / LIGHT FIRST CANDLE24 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Weekday Torah with Sisterhood 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism 2.0	1325 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Workout 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Yoga 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism: Kashrut 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	1426 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1527 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary 5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Cantor Brown 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith 7:30pm Shabbat Hanukkah Oneg	16 PARSHAT MIKETZ/SHABBAT HANUKKAH28 Kislev 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:15 am Shabbat Morning/Hanukkah Service; Bat Mitzvah: Courtney Pine; Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt 9:15 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 1:00 pm MakomDC Shabbat Learning: Rabbi Dr. Judith Havdalah
1729 Kislev 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:15 am What Do I Do Again? Adult Education Class w/ Hazzan Goldsmith 10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners 11:00 am Hineni: Here I Am: Mapping our Spiritual Coordinates through Yoga & Kabbalah 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	18 ROSH CHODESH TEVET30 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Tevet Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	191 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Piyyut and Prayer: Delving into Poetry and Music of Hanukkah w/ Cantor Brown & Rabbi Holtzblatt	202 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Workout 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Yoga 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle	213 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	224 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Schwartz	23 PARSHAT VAYIGASH5 Tevet 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service/Shabbat in Harmony; Bar Mitzvah: Elliot Bramson; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 5:32 pm Havdalah
246 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	257 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	268 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	279 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Workout 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2810 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2911 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Snacks in the Foyer @ Temple Sinai prior to the Joint Community Shabbat Service @ Temple Sinai with Rabbi Holtzblatt 6:00 pm NO KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE AT ADAS ISRAEL	30 PARSHAT VAYECHI12 Tevet 9:30 am Combined Smith/TEM Shabbat Service; D’var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 5:36 pm Havdalah
3113 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 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 (lbrarian@adasisrael.org).

Office Closing

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
Schools/Offices Closed



Inclusion Task Force Always Looking for Ways to Serve the Adas Community

Thanks to the foresight of Past President Debby Joseph and current President Ricki Gerger, the Inclusion Task Force will continue to look for ways to focus on its core mission—to collaborate and provide experiences that make Adas a leader in the inclusion of individuals with all types of special needs, welcoming them, their families, and friends to our services, programs, and building. The task force is co-chaired by Barbara Cline and Ross Eisenman.

How has Adas addressed accessibility for all? Take a look at the list below:

- Quiet room with minimal sensory stimulation
- Sign language interpretation
- Large-print *siddurim* and *machzorim*
- Gender-neutral restroom
- Allergy-friendly *kiddush*
- Accessible *bimah* and reading table
- Full-time Developmental Support Coordinator in Gan HaYeled
- Expanded wheelchair and partner seating where services and programs take place
- Access to live streaming of popular

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tikkunolam



Social Action News

Gun Violence Prevention Team

Along with Rabbi Alexander and fellow WIN (Washington Interfaith Network) leadership of the Community Safety/Police Accountability team, we are looking at different and effective models of community violence prevention. Toward that end on October 17, we met with Seema Gajwani, the Special Counsel for Juvenile Justice Reform in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, to talk about the Los Angeles Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD), considered by many as a proven version of a public health approach to violence reduction incorporated into a city government.

Following that meeting we met with DC's MPD Chief Peter Newsham, first to establish a relationship, and then to talk about what he sees as DC's most pressing violence prevention issues. He was clear that there is no formula for reducing violence and that the police cannot do "it" on their own. Hard work by the community is essential, and he is open to learning about proven effective strategies. Chief Newsham wants to see the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement fully staffed, as this will be a focus of violence prevention efforts. *To learn more about the Gun Violence Prevention team, please contact Lois Fingerhut at loisafingerhut@gmail.com.*

Lev B'Lev Team: A Partnership of the Hesed and the Social Action Committees

Lev B'Lev Letter-Writing Team joins Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR): Pen Pal Program for Prisoners

In addition to writing letters of solidarity to those who have experienced hate crimes, the Lev B'Lev Letter Writing Team has joined with IAHR, an interfaith organization representing people of different faiths in the Washington, DC, region to write letters to DC residents who are incarcerated in the Bureau of Prisons. IAHR Executive Director Rabbi Charles Feinberg's new effort addresses the isolation that incarcerated DC residents experience in prisons located far away from home.

More than 4,600 DC residents are sent to 122 Bureau of Prisons facilities around the country, making it particularly difficult for them to maintain supportive relationships and reintegrate into their communities upon their release. IAHR'S Pen Pal Program asks volunteers to correspond with one imprisoned DC resident at least once a month for one year. *For more information about this rewarding and enlightening experience or to join us, e-mail Ruth Kleinrock, ruthkleinrock@gmail.com.*

We Get Letters and We Write Letters

Lev B'Lev's Inaugural Speaker's: Rais Bhuyian Shares His Powerful Story of the Healing Power of Forgiveness

"What would you do if you were shot in the face and left for dead? Imagine

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you are minding your own business when for no reason that you could fathom, a stranger heads straight for you, raises a shotgun, aims it at your face, and pulls the trigger. If you survive, what would you do?" So began Rais Bhuiyan's riveting post-kiddush speech on October 28, the first in Adas Israel's *Lev B'Lev* speaker series. To the large audience that filled the Biran Beit Midrash, Rais described his remarkable personal journey from Bangladesh to Dallas, TX, in pursuit of the American dream and how that dream was temporarily shattered and his life nearly taken by Mark Stroman, a lost, hate-filled soul bent on killing innocent Muslims in the aftermath of 9/11.

Rais's story of survival gave the congregation and its guests a window into the healing power of forgiveness, a central theme of *Yom Kippur* and a major tenet of both Judaism and Islam. His inspirational work as a peace activist is a model for bridge building and the goal of replacing hate with love and kindness that is also at the core of *Lev B'Lev*, a new joint program of our Hesed and Social Action committees.

Throughout the next year, *Lev B'Lev* will bring speakers to Adas and other venues to build on and examine the themes related to hate that come from Rais's story. Those who missed the speech can quickly get up to speed by reading *The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas* by Anand Giridharadas.

Lev B'Lev is seeking members of the congregation and the community to join the program. In addition to the speaker series, LBL's strategic initiatives include letter writing (to those targeted with hate and to incarcerated individuals), attendance at vigils and rallies, and interfaith partnerships and celebrations. For more information on how to get involved and do your part to stand up to hate, contact Bruce Charendoff, brucecharendoff@yahoo.com.



Adas Israel Congregation
Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
2850 Quebec St NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Rabbi Holtzblatt,

I can't adequately express in words how grateful Temple Sinai is to have received your message of support after the anti-Semitic graffiti was found on our building on Rosh Hashanah. The outpouring of love and friendship helped us to find strength and comfort. Thank you for reaching out to us to let us know of your care and concern and thank you for standing with us. We are blessed to have you as partners in our efforts to bring greater justice and compassion to our world.

In Friendship,

Rabbi Jackie Mates-Muchin

Poverty, Homelessness & Housing Team News

Remember So Others Might Eat (SOME) with Coats and Food



SOME's Annual Winter Coat Drive Resumes in December

Now that you're digging out your winter clothes, please consider donating your lightly worn and clean winter coats that your family members will not wear again to SOME. Let's fill the white bins in our coat room. Winter coats only!

And our Food Drive continues: Our members generously contributed hundreds of pounds of nonperishable food to our annual *Kol Nidre* Food Drive. SOME counts on congregations like ours to feed its guests throughout the year, so please keep them in mind when you come to Adas. Bring an item from your pantry or pick up something extra when you are buying groceries.

Adas at SOME on October 30



A team of energetic volunteers prepared and served lunch at So Other Might Eat (SOME) on October 30. Adas contributed \$800 to sponsor this meal, which served approximately 400 persons. For more information, to volunteer, or to help fund a meal, contact Sharon Burka, slburka@aol.com.

Inclusion continued from page 14

- events through any computer, laptop, or mobile device
- Repositioning *mezuzot* in strategic areas of the building
- Minimizing sensory stimulation by replacing the coat room's steel hangers so they make less noise
- Assisted listening devices for use during services and programs
- Improved access to the playground

As we look to the year ahead, the task force hopes to address the need for better accessibility in any areas of the building that might be renovated in the future, making Adas publications and notices in print or in digital format reader-friendlier by adjusting font types and sizes, and focusing on ways to make the High Holy Day services even more accessible.

The task force welcomes feedback and suggestions from members of the Adas community, and it plans to take a more proactive approach to meeting member needs. Suggestions and feedback should be addressed to inclusion@adasisrael.org.

And finally, SAVE THE DATE for Inclusion Celebration Month in February 2018. A series of events is planned for February 2–4 and throughout the month. More details will be provided in future issues of *Chronicle*.



Before You Head South for the Winter

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

tikkunolam

Hesed

By Sharon Polansky

With a strong hand and an outstretched arm. No, not speaking about our exodus from Egypt, but rather about how two 90-year-olds, Sonya Gichner and Fradel Kramer, deliver *Hesed*. In a world where social media all-too-often substitute for human interaction, these two women and dear friends are



out and about: reaching out and extending their hands to personally deliver hesed baskets to those in need, and not texting but phoning and talking to members of our community who need a shoulder to lean on.

Perhaps each was born with a good heart and that fuels her interest in giving back in this way. But life's events prove that, sometimes, it's also a catalyst that stimulates a good heart to perform good deeds. These are women who have been active in Jewish life and Adas in myriad ways for many years, from Sonya's early involvement with *Bikkur Cholim* and her husband's strong Adas ties, to Fradel's co-chairing Adas's PTA book fair to committee memberships.

Neither is a native to DC. Sonya arrived in 1974 after a blind date with a nice Jewish guy who drove to Baltimore to meet her turned into marriage, or as she says, "I married into Adas." A social worker by profession, she always gravitated to Jewish organizations and found ways to interact with people. Fradel, a Boston native who arrived in 1959, was a teacher who was also involved in supporting her husband's business. She has been active at Adas for many years, but more recently added learning Hebrew well enough to now read Torah regularly.

While Fradel and Sonya knew each other, it wasn't until they both experienced a common grief, the loss of a spouse (Sonya five years ago, Fradel four) that they truly bonded. "We bonded when the guys got sick," says Sonya, and the friendship grew from this sadness and shared experience. It was during Sonya's husband's illness, when the couple themselves were recipients of an Adas *Rosh Hashanah* Hesed basket, that her soft spot, as she calls it, for Hesed gift baskets was tapped. "It was so lovely; it really touched us," she says of that experience, and, now, she and Fradel help to continue that tradition. Time together delivering Hesed baskets with honey cake (a keeper Hesed-baked recipe, they say) also is the time when Sonya and Fradel visit with one another. Their friendship drives this duo operation; one stays in the car, to avoid having to park, and the other walks the basket to the recipient's door.

But their Hesed work does not stop at the door. When we say a prayer for healing the sick, a *misheberach*, and congregants stand to say the names of their loved ones in need of our prayers, we can see just some of the many people who need help. Fradel and Sonya make it their business to hear these individuals, and they are on a mission to reach out to shut-ins, sick, or elderly community members who need real-time remembering. Through the Hesed Phone Team, each has at least one weekly phone call with an individual, whom neither of them has met, in need of a voice, of being engaged. "To let them know that someone is calling and thinking of them," says Fradel, "is so meaningful."

It's a duo operation, too, listening to Fradel and Sonya complete each other's thoughts, reveal each other's secrets, relive each other's histories, and share each other's lives. Together, that's 180 years they have together and share with Adas. That's the portrait of Hesed. Commitment to *chai*, to life, times 10. ❀

Refugee Response Team Meet Our Syrian Family Eight Months After Their Arrival in the U.S.

In late 2016, Adas Israel committed to sponsoring for one year a refugee family admitted into the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program under the auspices of Lutheran Social Services' Good Neighbors Program (GNP). GNP's goals are to provide a soft landing for newly arrived refugees, ensure the successful integration of recently resettled families into their new communities, and help with the difficult transition from refugee status to self-sufficiency in a new country. In practice, Adas's commitment to sponsor a family has obligated members and volunteers to provide substantial financial support (primarily in the form of rent subsidies); identify suitable housing; provide employment assistance; assist with school enrollment and ongoing tutoring for the children; access Medicaid, SNAP, and other benefits; teach ESOL lessons for the parents; and much more.



In April 2017, after two weeks of intensive initial preparation, members of the Adas Refugee Response Team welcomed a family of five originally from Damascus, Syria. Family members include Ghosoun (mom); Fayeze (dad); Hala (nine-year-old daughter), Mohammed Nour (five-year-old son), and Sham (two-year-old daughter). Thanks to the generosity of many Adas members who have donated money, furniture and clothing, hours of time, and some brilliant ideas over the past six months, our Syrian family has settled beautifully into its new home in Silver Spring.

The family's three children are thriving, making new friends in their neighborhood and at school and progressing rapidly in regard to their English-language skills. Over the summer, the two eldest kids learned how to swim, attended area day camps and benefited from back-to-school tutoring by a team of volunteers. In September, Hala (3rd grade) and Mohammed Nour (kindergarten) happily started the school year at their local elementary school. Hala loves math and, after initially struggling to understand her teacher's instructions, now excels in the subject. Mohammed Nour is learning how to read and write in English. Meanwhile, his colloquial English, complete with a charming American accent, impresses everyone he encounters. In September, Sham started at Gan HaYeled, where she is a very happy member of the *Dubim* class. Sham's adjustment to her first time in a classroom has been remarkable; after shedding

a few tears on the first day, she jumped in head first and never looked back. Sham especially enjoys classroom singing, games, and outdoor explorations.



Ghosoun, like all three of her children, embarked on a new school adventure in September when she enrolled in the ESOL program at the Washington English School. Ghosoun's English, already good due to her diligent work with Adas volunteers over the spring and summer months, is now exceptional, especially considering that she started from scratch less than six months ago. She will continue her English studies in 2018. She aspires to pass her GED exam within the next year (give or take) and ultimately wants to enroll in a professional degree program. The Adas refugee employment team is exploring part-time employment options that would enable her to continue studying English and spend time with her family in the evenings.

Although Fayeze studied English for a couple of months post-arrival, his focus soon turned to finding a full-time job. The Adas employment team helped him obtain a part-time job in the kitchen at Fresh Med in Cleveland Park. Soon thereafter, Fayeze was hired for a full-time position at the newly opened University of Maryland hotel. He primarily works in the kitchen and, according to his boss, is a stellar employee. Rumor has it that when the pastry department opens at the hotel, Fayeze will be transferred there, where he will learn new skills to complement his already extensive kitchen expertise. Fayeze is content at this job, has made friends with some of his co-workers, and likes to joke that his Spanish is progressing more quickly than his English due to "eavesdropping" on his co-workers' conversations.

All of this good news notwithstanding, we would be remiss not to mention the significant complexities and challenges this family (like all newly arrived refugees) faces on daily. To name a few: learning how to use public transportation; navigating the state benefits system; scheduling and attending multiple medical appointments; learning how to advocate effectively for children in American public schools; and living every day with the gnawing ache of homesickness and worry about friends and family left behind.

Those of us fortunate enough to be part of the Refugee Response Team have been intimately involved in helping the family navigate these challenges and, more recently, we've watched with joy and pride as each member of the family has overcome obstacles that just a few months earlier seemed insurmountable. In the end, the most significant memories for Adas Refugee Response Team members have been formed during trips to the grocery store, playing board games, chasing the kids in the park, sharing meals and hot cups of tea, and other informal interactions that have fostered deep friendships, which will last well beyond our congregation's one-year sponsorship. ❀



ANNE FRANK HOUSE

Anne Frank House

Anne Frank House is grateful to the Religious School and the Adas Israel community for its fabulous support of the October 15 mini walk. A special shout-out goes to Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, Pamela Gorin, and other members of the Adas Israel leadership and staff for making the day a big success.

As 2017 draws to a close, Anne Frank House wants to thank the entire Adas Israel community for its support and generosity this year. **As all of you plan your year-end contributions, please consider a contribution to Anne Frank House.**

On a budget of about \$12,000 per resident per year, Anne Frank House:

- houses 10 formerly homeless people in attractive apartments;
- furnishes the apartments;
- pays for medical, psychiatric and social services, and
- supports the residents with phone calls, visits, holiday meals, and other assistance.

In this time of diminishing available financial support, we depend on your contribution more than ever to help us maintain our program. We hope to acquire a new condominium in the next year or two to accommodate another new resident in the near future. Our long-range goal remains to grow our client base to 14 residents by 2020, while continuing to operate as an all-volunteer organization, serving men and women with chronic mental illness.

In these still uncertain financial times, your support is especially important. Contributions by check may be sent to Anne Frank House, c/o Adas Israel, or you may make them online at <http://www.theannefrankhouse.org/donate.html>. Please give generously. Thank you!

From the President continued from page 2

You welcomed me, you comforted me, you taught me, you uplifted me. There is nothing more powerful than people coming together as a community, a community united by prayer, a community united by faith, a community united by caring. That's the power of ten. For that I am so grateful to you and I thank you.

Adas Israel is fortunate to have a group of people who come to morning *minyan* and a few who come to evening *minyan* "religiously," to pray, and they're also helping others say *kaddish*. Even so, a *minyan* is never guaranteed. So I'm asking for your assistance.

Please help us make a *minyan* twice a day. Here are some suggestions:

1. Come a day or two before and/or after you have a *yahrzeit*.
2. Attend the *minyan* before an evening committee meeting. Many committee members and board members do this.
3. Pick a day during the week or during the month that becomes "your day" to help make a *minyan*. Many of our members do this, some because they know what it's like not to be able to say *kaddish*, others because they don't want anyone else to feel that way. Oh, and perfect attendance isn't required. I've picked Thursday evenings, and I make it about 60% of the time.
4. When you're having a bad day, when you feel unappreciated, perhaps overworked and underpaid, don't go home and proverbially kick the dog. Come to the *minyan* instead! I guarantee you'll be greeted warmly, thanked profusely, and showered with appreciation. You might even derive some spiritual benefit. You'll feel so good you just might want to return sometime. And if you still need a boost, come back the next morning. Same deal.

And here's something you might not know: We feed you after morning minyan! Bagels and cream cheese at a minimum. A fish platter on *Rosh Chodesh*. And now the Hased Committee is providing delicacies like kugel, honey cake, egg cups, and other treats from time to time. E-mail adasdailyminyan@gmail.com to get on the Daily *Minyan* e-mail list so you'll know about these special breakfasts.

And please understand how this works: the more people who attend a *minyan*, the more meaningful the experience is. So don't feel you're not needed if you get here and there's already a *minyan*. You're needed, believe me.

Our Ritual Director, Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, Religious Practices Chair Julia Gordon, Vice President for Ritual Alex Horowitz, and I welcome your ideas about how to ensure we always have a *minyan*. Please e-mail one of us at Hazzan.goldsmith@adasisrael.org, jrg1013@gmail.com, alexhoro@aol.com, or president@adasisrael.org.

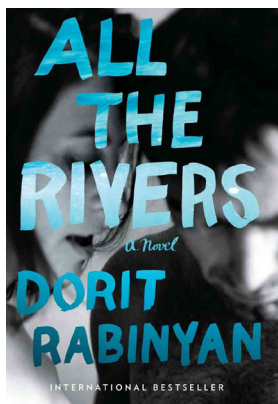
Thank you for helping create a loving community when people need it most. And as we say in the *minyan*, you'll get lots of *mitzvah* points.

Note: Morning *minyan* is at 7:30 am, Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 am on Sunday and legal holidays (except Columbus Day and Veterans' Day). Evening *minyan* is at 6:00 pm Sunday through Thursday, and we have a *Mincha* service at 1:00 pm on *Shabbat*. *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Shabbat* morning service times are listed on our web site. ❀

Listen to Her Voice: Israeli Women Writers

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director

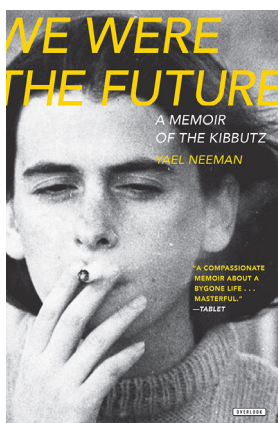
With Israel's 70th birthday approaching, this is a good time to read and celebrate Israeli authors. Over the past several years, Adas Israel's Book Club has read some exceptional books by Amos Oz, David Grossman, A.B. Yehoshua, Meir Shalev, and Etgar Keret, each offering a window into the nuances of Israeli culture and history. But as this list suggests, Israeli authors translated into English tend to be men; this year, why not seek out the work of talented Israeli women? *All the Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan is a sensitive novel about a complicated romance between an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Muslim. *We Were the Future* by Yael Neeman is a memoir of growing up on an Israeli kibbutz.



All the Rivers

All the Rivers is set mostly in New York City during the winter of 2002–03. In that multicultural mecca where all relationships feel possible, two young people meet and fall in love. Liat, a Jewish woman from Tel Aviv, has a Fulbright fellowship to study translation. Hilmi is a talented Muslim artist from Ramallah. In Israel, this novel reaped both awards and controversy; for a time, the Israeli Ministry of Education banned the book from the national high school curriculum, concerned it would encourage Jewish-Muslim love affairs.

The irony is that the Jewish-Muslim romance depicted in the novel is so fraught that readers are unlikely to want a similar romance for themselves. Liat feels intense guilt over her relationship with Hilmi (the story is told from her point of view). She knows her family would be appalled by her love affair with a Muslim Arab (my parents would “hang me from the highest tree,” she says). She insists that the couple view their relationship as time-limited, reminding Hilmi repeatedly that they will remain together only until her six-month visa expires. Then, she will return to Israel alone. This condition creates stress; one American friend asks Liat how she can love “with a stopwatch running.” Another stress is Liat’s determination to keep the romance a secret from all Israelis; when she spots an Israeli friend on the New York subway, she and Hilmi switch train cars to avoid recognition. Hilmi, in turn, finds Liat’s anxious behavior cowardly and hurtful.



We Were the Future

Yael Neeman offers an insider’s perspective on the largely bygone traditional kibbutz community. Neeman grew up on Kibbutz Yehiam in northern Israel in the 1960s and ’70s, an experience she describes as part of a bold “socialist experiment” to restructure the traditional institutions of family and home. Neeman lived with her peer group “24 hours a day, from waking until sleeping, from the babies’ house to the end of twelfth grade,” years she remembers nostalgically as “dipped in gold.” Her parents lived on the kibbutz, too, but her life was separate from theirs, except for one daily visit before dinner. Kibbutz life, says Neeman, was designed to detach children

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books&more continued from left column

from “the oppressive weight of their parents,” who might be too indulgent or too controlling or both.

Although Neeman had a happy childhood, she readily acknowledges flaws in traditional kibbutz life, mostly in that it did not meet its aspirations to be an equalitarian society. Some members had desirable positions, while others did the laundry, peeled potatoes, or cleaned the showers and toilets. Housing children separately from their parents did not free women from child care, as envisioned; typically, women worked in the children’s houses, taking care of other people’s children. *We Were the Future* is a fond, but candid, look back at a distinctive Israeli institution. ✿

Introducing *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas!*
Hanukkah Book Event for Young Children with Adas Author Pamela Ehrenberg
Sunday, December 10, 10:00–11:00 am, in the Adas Library



Pre-schoolers and accompanying adults are invited to the Adas Book Launch of Pam Ehrenberg’s just-published *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas*, a charming tale that blends Jewish and Indian traditions. Pam will read her book and lead a fun activity. Book-signing follows. Co-sponsored by the Library and Gan HaYeled.

Ma Tovv: Young Professional Committee Co-Chairs Elizabeth Glidden and Alex Levy

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

The two of you are co-chairs of the Young Professional committee at Adas Israel. How long have you been involved in YP@AI, why did you want to have a leadership role, and why do you think it's important for Adas and congregations all over to reach out to young professionals?

Elizabeth: My husband and I joined Adas about three years ago, right before our wedding, and immediately got involved with YP as a way to make a large community feel a little smaller. It was a great way for us to make stronger connections with others, and we've loved it ever since.

Alex: I joined Adas two years ago, but my first year I was too busy to take advantage of most of Adas's events and committees. Last year, I realized that I wanted to get more involved, and asked to join the YP committee as a way to better learn the ins and outs of the community.

Both: YPers are looking for the same things as everyone else; an engaged community, fun activities, and meaningful ways to be Jewish in a fast-paced city. Being part of the YP committee has been an amazing way for us to get to know the community better, make new friends, and just overall feel more involved. Young professionals are a very diverse group, and it is exciting to try and find ways to integrate us better into the Adas community as a whole.

Typical Happy Hour Questions: Where are you from, how did you end up in DC, how long have you lived here, and what do you do?

E: I'm originally from Yorktown, VA, but came here 10 years ago as a freshman at GW. I have always loved this city, so staying was the obvious choice. I stayed at GW for my MPH, and now work as an oncology patient navigator at GW Hospital.

A: I'm originally from Connecticut. I came here three years ago for my master's degree, loved it, and decided to stay. I work at an international development NGO, and most recently was working on a women empowerment program for minority women in Iraq.

Elizabeth, last year you helped us with our ZUMBATHON® and led us in some awesome dancing cardio. What other exercise classes do you teach and where? You also have a great blog about your food adventures with some great recipes for the Jewish holidays. What inspired you to start this blog, and how can people follow you?

I currently teach a weekly barre class at MINT Downtown (Wednesday at 6:00 pm if anyone wants to check it out). I've been teaching group fitness classes since my senior year of college, originally as a Zumba instructor. I launched my blog, Finding Normal, a little over a year ago, mostly as a personal project to gather all of my thoughts on fitness and diet

culture, subjects I am very passionate about. It's been a great outlet for me to explore these areas of interest, which I don't typically deal with at work. You can find me at www.thefindingnormalblog.com, or @thefindingnormalblog on Facebook and Instagram.

Alex, you're involved with our Refugee Response Team here at Adas. Why did you want to get involved with this particular team, and what is your specific role?

Over the years I've become more and more connected to the refugee issue, and following elections last November I was extra-motivated to act. I happened to go to an event that mentioned that Adas would be trying to sponsor a refugee family, and I immediately contacted the synagogue to see how I could be involved. The team was extremely welcoming, and while my role varies depending on what is needed, I helped set up a few apartments and now assist with different needs of the Syrian family as they arise. It's also been a fun way to practice my Arabic, and help them with their English.

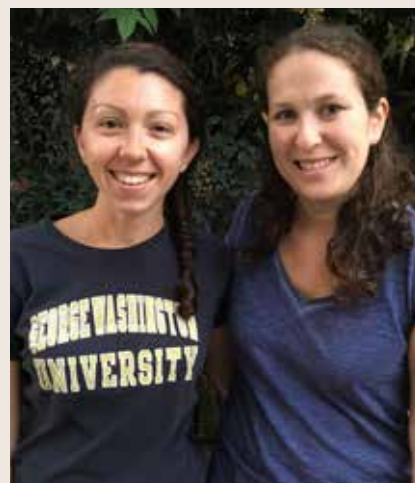
When you're not at a YP Shir Delight event on a Friday night, how do you like to spend Shabbat and unplug?

E: It really depends. Sometimes my husband and I are with friends, other times on our own. To be honest, we don't always do a good job making time for *Shabbat*, but we recently decided to light candles and say *kaddish* on Fridays when we are at home. It's become a nice way to separate work from weekend and take a few moments to let go of unneeded stress.

A: It also depends for me. I usually do some sort of *Shabbat* dinner with my friends, be it at a restaurant or at one of our homes. It's been a fun time for us to try out new recipes on each other, and just catch up after a busy week.

Hanukkah begins on December 12 (and our YP Wine and Latkes event is December 20!). Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights, a time to light up the darkness. What do you hope our community can shine a light on for the next year?

We hope that our community will continue to prove that Judaism can be a part of our lives in many different ways. For young professionals in particular, it is important to demonstrate the ways that Judaism can supplement instead of contradict our daily lives. There are so many positive activities at Adas, but we can always work harder to highlight our diversity and openness. ✨



synagoguecontributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Josh Gotbaum & Joyce Thornhill. **Ricki Gerger** becoming president of Adas Israel by Robyn Helzner.

With Thanks To: **Courtney Tisch** by Ellen Smith & Howard Alpert.

In Memory Of: **Derek Solomon** by Robyn Helzner. **My mother & grandmothers** by Marsha Kaplan. **Deborah Katzin** by Laura Katzin.

Anne Frank House Fund

By: Andrew Altman, Masha Belenky, Chava Brandriss, Daniel & Blanche Cotlear, Simone Crispino, Glenn Dubin, Sue Ducat & Stan Cohen, Jacob Dweck & Rebecca Hirsch Dweck, Jason Dzubow, Adam Entenberg, Robert & Beth Feldgarden, Jeffrey Fistel & Cherrie Daniels, Deena Fox, Jennifer Fredman, Karin Freedman, Peter & Caroline Friedman, Shane Gerson, Benjamin & Madeleine Goldberg, Terry Leach & Ada Goldousky, Avi Green & Natalie Silverman, Laurie Alban Havens, Mirit Hemy, Michael & Alexandra Horowitz, Kenneth & Kathy Ingber, Murrey Jacobson, Ryan Kanzor, Nandor & Sharon Katz, Deena Kennedy, Sheldon Kimmel, Joshua & Lauren Kolko, Elaine Kremens, Lisa Krochmal, Miriam Lansky, Tamar & Jonathan Lechter, Mark Levenstein, Scott Levine & Melissa Blume, Gallia Lindenstrauss, Paul Neaville & Marisa Luzzatto, Mike Madden & Mindy Saraco, Nechama Malkiel, Peter & Sarah Mancoll, Amy & Billy Mates Mencow, Daniel & Jennifer Mendelson, Sander & Adina Mendelson, Lisa Beth Morenoff, Melissa Moskowitz, Brian Netter & Karen Dunn, Larry & Edna Povich, Dan & Aynat Ravin, James Ravitz, Charles & Lesley Rich, Carolyn Rogers, Rabbis Derek & Kerrith Rosenbaum, Eric & Taryn Rosenkranz, Stanley M. Salus, Jason & Deborah Samenow, Dr. Sidney Schwarz & Sandra Perlstein, Beth Simon, Jeremy Spector & Robin Halsband, Chad Sullivan, Steven Teiler, Daniel Traster & Katie McGraw, DeVon Walker, Ashley Walker, Ian Wallace, Jonathan Weinstein & Stacie Isenberg, Bertram Weintraub, Beth Werlin & Michael Wiesenfelder, Daniel Yates.

In Honor Of: **Adina Mendelson** by Rhoda Baruch.

In Memory Of: **Ruth S. Eanet & Beverly Jacobs** by Sheryl Fahey & Ken Colling. **Dr. Robert Berk** by Beth Merachnik. **Sophie Silfen** by Howard Streicher & Veneeta Acson.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

In Memory Of: **Benjamin "Jamie" Cecil** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Bereavement Fund

In Appreciation Of: **Edie Hessel's** support by Robin Berman.

With Thanks To: Adas Israel Bereavement Committee by Ralph Mitchell.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Cantor Brown** by Sharon Burka, Richard Kramer.

In Memory Of: **Tobee Jacobson Fischman** by Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz.

Cantor Max Wohlberg Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: **Mary Nissenson** by Irv & Grace Lebow.

Celia & Louis Grossberg Cantorial Fund

In Memory Of: **Muriel Rothman & David Bubes** by Robert & Sherry Gratz.

Charles Pilzer Computer Center

In Memory Of: **Charles Pilzer** by Geraldine Pilzer.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: **Gabriel's bar mitzvah** by Mr. Jose Bassat. **Sophie Mallen** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by James Siskin. *Auftruf of* **Jeffrey Rubenstein & Rebecca Levitt** by Miriam & Irvin Rubenstein. **Courtney Pine** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Phil & Debbie Pine. Upcoming *bar mitzvah* of **Ethan Wolin** by Neal Wolin & Nicole Elkon.

In Memory Of: **Wallace H. Flax** by Mr. Martin Peled-Flax.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: **Manny Schiffres's** retirement by Bill Levenson. **Brian Weinstein's** 80th birthday, **Donald Saltz** by Richard & Susan Ugelow.

In Gratitude For: Daily Minyan for being so welcoming by Bruce Ray & April Rubin.

In Memory Of: **H. Leonard Seidman** by Ilene Chait **Sylvia Horwitz** by Marvene Horwitz.

Lois Brooks by Bill Levenson. **Philip R. Ugelow** by Richard Ugelow.

Dan Kaufman Children's Program Fund

In Honor Of: **Maya Leach's** 7th birthday by Robert & Barbara Cline.

In Memory Of: **Paul Hilowitz** by Minna Kaufman.

Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund

In Memory Of: **Millie Lutter** by Trina Rubenstein.

Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund

In Honor Of: **Ricky Gerger** becoming president of Adas Israel by Arthur & Harriet Isack. **Taryn Rosenkranz's** birthday by Ronald & Debbie Sann.

In Memory Of: **Derek Solomon** by Stuart & Jamie Butler, Arthur & Harriet Isack. **Essie Margolies** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff. **Estelle Gelman** by Elaine Miller.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: **Mabel Taylor** by the Block & Mintz families. **David Bubes** by Glenn & Cindy Easton, Harry & Lilli Friedman, Adrian & Annette Morchower, Lenny & Beth Sloan, David & Heather Polonsky.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **David Polonsky** by Sharon Burka. *In Appreciation Of:* **David Polonsky** by Harry & Judy Melamed.

Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

In Memory Of: **Leonard W. Burka** by Frances Burka, Sharon Burka, Michael Burka, John Kossow.

Fund for the Future

In Honor Of: **Rabbinic Task Force** by Roger & Renée Fendrich. **Judy & Russell Smith's** birthdays by Sara Hoffman.

In Memory Of: **Morris Cohen & Robert Schumer** by Shirley Cohen.

Garden of the Righteous

In Memory Of: **Erika Brodsky** by Jean Bernard. **Muriel Rothman & Mary Nissenson** by Judy Strauch.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **David F. Linowes, Frances Coler & Harry C. Bierman**, all by Harry Linowes.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

By: Sandi Fox, Morris & Susan Klein.

In Honor Of: **Sarah Brooks** by Dava Berkman.

Betsy Strauss for making my leining tapes by Sarah Brooks. **Harry Davidson** becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Arnie & Mary Hammer.

In Memory Of: **Cynthia Ullamn** by Carmel Chiswick. **Bonnie Jacobson** by Arnie & Mary Hammer.

Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Shoshana Berman** with many thanks to **Hazzan Goldsmith** for all the help you gave getting Shoshana ready for her *bat mitzvah* by Jonathan Berman & Elisa Rosen.

Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund

In Honor Of: **Fradel Kramer's** special birthday by Sonya Gichner.

In Gratitude For: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** during a difficult time by Bruce Ray & April Rubin.

With Thanks For: **Rabbi Schwartz's** kindness & support by Bob & Robin Berman.

In Memory Of: **Bess Torgoff** by Jane Baldinger. **George Levinson** by Jackie Levinson.

High Holy Day Torah Covers

By: Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

Ida Mendelson Memorial Prayer Book Fund

In Honor Of: **Rebecca's Levitt's** marriage to **Jeffrey Rubenstein** by Herlene Nagler.

In Memory Of: **Bess Torgoff, Louise (Weezy) Gold, Mary Nissenson**, all by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

Leonard Melrod Memorial Nursery School Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: **Jodi Blecker's** birthday by Dave Esquith & Katy Gingles.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Memory Of: **Lillian Ezrin** by Rhoda Ganz.

MakomDC Fund

In Memory Of: **Adine Holland** by Bruce Ray & April Rubin.

Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: **Marilyn & Stef Tucker** by Steve & Toby Kahn.

In Memory Of: **Reuben Miller** by Marilyn & Stefan Tucker.

Martha & Joseph Mendelson Adult Education Fund

In Memory Of: **Rae Rubin** by Rabbi Charles & Krayna Feinberg.

Men's Club Amuday Torah Fund

In Memory Of: **Gerald Lachter** by Steve & Sandy Lachter.

Mikvah Fund

In Honor Of: **Fradel Kramer's** 90th birthday by Lucy Hassell. **Caroli Maleh** by Dr. Robert Hadeyah.

In Memory Of: **Beatrice Solloway** by Rick Solloway

Mikveh Capital Campaign

In Honor Of: Our daughter, **Lisa**, chanting the *haftorah* on the first day of *Rosh Hashanah*, 5778 by Michael & Joyce Stern.

Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund

In Honor Of: **Maddy Shapiro's** special birthday by Irv & Estelle Jacobs.

In Memory Of: **Rae Jacobs, Ben Alperstein** by Irv & Estelle Jacobs.

Minnie & Abraham S. Kay Israel Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Minnie B. Kay** by Sylvia Greenberg.

Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Mark Lerner** by Carl & Nancy Gewirz.

In Memory Of: **Louis Jacob Wineburg** by Judith Melamed. **Harold Cooper** by Phyllis Mindell.

Offerings Fund

By: Ilene Gertman.

In Honor Of: **Fradel Kramer's** 90th birthday by Charles & Krayna Feinberg. **Isaac Trommer** becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Doris & Alan Friedberg. **Joshua Frumkin** becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Fred & Priscilla Kay. **Lily & Paul Scanlon's** anniversary by Elaine Rose.

In Gratitude For: My High Holy Day honor by Donald Porges.

In Recognition Of: **Lois Fingerhut & Ron Lapping's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Charles & Krayna Feinberg. **Ron Lapping's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Anita Lapping.

With Great Appreciation For: **Rabbi Steinlauf** by Kathy Krieger.

In Memory Of: **Lillie Lachter** by Steve & Sandy Lachter. **Frances & Hyman Kornberg** by Larry Rosenblum. **Paul Gertman** by Ilene Gertman.

Rae Rubin by Larry & Melanie Nussdorf. **Trudy Wilensky** by Dr. Robert Wilensky.

Oliver & Bertha Atlas Youth Endowment Fund

In Loving Memory Of: My parents by the Estate of Rita Atlas Wolfson.

PACE Moms' Group

In Gratitude For: **Moms' group** at Adas Israel by Richard & Carol Margolis.

Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Shoshana Berman** with thanks for **Rabbi Alexander's** help with her *bat mitzvah* by Jonathan Berman & Elisa Rosen.

Rabbi Alexander for leading my *shiva minyan* by Sarah Brooks. **Rabbi Alexander** by Sharon Burka. **Rabbi Alexander** being named co-senior rabbi of Adas Israel by Don & Gail Roache.

In Honor & Celebration Of: **Rabbi Alexander** with gratitude for his devotion & continued leadership by Kathy Krieger.

In Gratitude For: **Rabbi Alexander's** support, guidance & presence by Bob & Robin Berman.

In Recognition Of: **Ron Lapping's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Sheila Lapping.

With Great Appreciation For: **Rabbi Alexander** has done for our son, Jeff, & Rebecca Levitt, as they prepare for their wedding by Miriam & Irvin Rubenstein, Ellie Levitt, Randall Levitt & Johanna Chanin.

In Memory Of: **William Glazer & Lazar Lachter** by Steve & Sandy Lachter.

Rabbi Avis Miller Lifelong Learning Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Miller** by Carolyn Jacobson.

In Memory Of: **Milton Kleinrock** by Steven Kleinrock.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

By: Raechel Banks.

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Sharon Burka, Myrna Seidman, Shelton & Rory Zuckerman. **Jodi Blecker** by Joshua & Lauren Kolko. **Lauren Holtzblatt** being named co-senior rabbi of Adas Israel by Don & Gail Roache.

In Honor & Celebration Of: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** with gratitude for her devotion & continued leadership by Kathy Krieger.

In Gratitude For: High Holy Day services by David Selden & Julie Wallick.

In Recognition Of: **Lois Fingerhut's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Steven & Ruth Kleinrock.

With Thanks To: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Ralph Mitchell.

In Memory Of: **Bess Torgoff** by Sandy & Miriam Ain. **Florence Glazer & Leah Lachter** by Steve & Sandy Lachter.

Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund

In Memory Of: **David Sackett** by Stanley Scherr.

Rabbi Rosenbaum Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of: **Derek Solomon** by Margie Cutler.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

In Memory Of: **Charles Lerner** by Carole Lerner.

Refugee Response Project

In Gratitude For: My *Yom Kippur* honor by Renée Fendrich.

In Memory Of: **George Sidell** by Arlene Sidell Cohen. **Bess Torgoff** by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Return Again/Community Shabbat Dinner

In Gratitude For: Return Again Service Program by Margery Thomas & Robert Mueller.

With Thanks For: A wonderful *Rosh Hashanah* service & for the opportunity to *kvell* about our son, **Eli Greenberg**, by David & Yudit Greenberg.

In Memory Of: **Peter Dreyer** by Scott Dreyer.

Rose & Simon Laupheimer Fund

In Memory Of: **Pauline & Sol Kempler** by Harry Kempler.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Honor Of: **Ann Kort** by Morris & Susan Klein.

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Myra Promisel** by Harry & Judy Melamed, Miriam Rosenthal.

In Memory Of: **Dr. Leo Brodie** by Fae Brodie.

Joseph Gichner by Sonya Gichner. **Terry Goldstein** by Marcie Goldstein. **Minnie Flock** by Harriet Isack. **Pauline Jacobs** by Mildred Jacobs. **Irving Koenig** by Eric Koenig. **Walter Rosenkrantz & Betty Torgoff** by Irv & Grace Lebow. **Muriel Rothman** by Adrian & Annette Morchower. **Mary Nissenson & David Bubes** by Elinor Tattar. **Herbert Radley** by Gayle, Howard, Seth & Sam Teicher.

Rothstein Family Israel College Scholarship Fund

In Loving Memory Of: **Lorain Rothstein** by Bob & Robin Berman, Alan & Nancy Bubes & family, Glenn & Cindy Easton, Frank & Cynthia Roberts, Harriet & Marvin Roth, Susan Rothstein, Josh Wasserman, Elaine Weinstein & Howard Forman.

Ruthe Katz Dial-in Program

In Memory Of: **Edith Krohn** by Rae Grad & Manny Schiffres.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Memory Of: **Abraham Louis Glassman** by Janet Baldinger. **David Bubes** by Rob & Rachel Rubin. **Myron L. Madden** by Alan & Dale Sorcher.

Siddur Lev Shalem Prayerbook Fund

In Honor Of: **Alexander Becket Crispino** by Laurie Alban Havens.

Social Action Fund

In Recognition Of: **Lois Fingerhut's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Michael Fingerhut.

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Myra Promisel** by Jane Baldinger, Larry & Myra Promisel.

In Memory Of: **Edward Goldberg, Freda Goldberg & Marianne Liebermann**, all by Stuart & Jamie Butler. **Melvin Lenkin** by Allan & Barbara Fried. **Minna Williamowsky** by Allan & Barbara Fried & family. **Myron Madden** by Michael Madden & Mindy Saraco.

Staff Gift Fund

In Honor Of: Adas Israel staff with thanks for your dedicated work by Robert & Barbara Cline.

In Memory Of: **Annette Rayman** by Glenn & Cindy Easton. **Rose & Simon Laupheimer, Veeda & Stanley Weiner** by Harry Kempler.

Stanley & Veeda Wiener Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: **Bertha & Nathan Frohlich** by Harry Kempler.

Susan & Robert Klein Seniors Fund

In Honor Of: Our 38th anniversary by Robert & Barbara Cline.

Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Music Fund

In Memory Of: **Sidra Cohn Rausch** by James Haahr.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund

In Recognition Of: **Alvin Dunn, Sandra Eskin, Lois Fingerhut & Ron Lapping's Simchat Torah** honors, all by Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund

By: Jack Olender.

In Memory Of: **Morton Berkower** by Dr. Ira Berkower.

Joel Cogen by Edward & Ruth Cogen.

Bess Torgoff by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Shirley Breger Eitches by Eddie Eitches.

David Lesser by Margery Elfin.

Frances Kahn by

Stephen Kahn. **Bernard D. Levinson** by Toby Kahn. **Annabelle Kutcher Shapiro** by James Kutcher.

Arthur N. Lerner by Linda Dreeben.

Myron L. Madden by Brian & Judy Madden

& family. **Morris Tersoff & Sophie Tersoff**

by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff.

Yetta Goldman by Carolyn Goldman.

Dr. Dorothy Rabkin by Chuck Rabkin.

Anne Strassman, Alexander Altman by Zalma Slawsky.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund

With Great Appreciation For: Adas Israel's wonderful services by Lawrence Berman.

In Memory Of: **Harry Paikin** by Susan

Abravanel. **Victoria Ain** by Sanford Ain.

Ella Singer by Gloria Bernstein.

Dorothy Adelman by Adele Buckhantz.

Katalin Karpati by Maria Burka.

Beatrice Diener by Daniel Diener.

Ruth Bernstein by Philip Epstein.

Jerome A. Gross by Alma & Joseph Gildenhorn.

Richard W. Goldman, Betty Kossow Sachs by Susan Sachs

Goldman.

Leonard Hardis by Dr. Jonathan Hardis.

Sara Alban by Laurie Alban Havens.

Suzane Ingber by Dr. Kenneth Ingber.

Rose

Tauber by Dolly Kay.

David M. Schwartz by Susan & Howard Liberman.

Marguerite Adler by Lilliane Litton.

Frances Margolis by Dr. Richard Margolis.

Lillian Polansky by Sharon Polansky.

Benjamin Roth by Alan Roth.

Ruth S. Albert by Barbara Sandler.

Anne Silverman by Joseph Silverman.

Philip Silverman by Mark Silverman.

Morton Bachrach by Joan Slatkin.

Adele Pilsk by Judith Smith.

Bobby Thomas by Grayce Warren-Boulton.

Aron Zilberbaum & Feiga Zilberbaum by Joseph Zilberbaum.

Young Professionals

By: Jonathan Fliegel.

Youth Activities Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Asher Israel Epstein** by Philip Epstein.

In Loving Memory Of: **Ruth S. Albert** by Stanley & Ellen Albert.

In Memory Of: **Muriel Dulberger** by Faith Apt.

Dr. Arthur Dubit by Gerrie Dubit.

Hyman Gross by Alma Gildenhorn.

Terri Paul by Douglas Paul.

Sondra Merachnik by Beth Merachnik.

Education Update continued from page 7

and brighter as a community, and I look forward to adding my light to those flames. I wish you a *chag sameach* and thank you for the wonderful welcome into this vibrant community.

—Sarah Tasman



With each school week we have more fun, grow more comfortable in our classrooms, learn from our teachers and students, and solidify our rhythm. Likewise, the Jewish calendar responds to the pace and changes of the year, and as it gets colder, we

are offered a little warmth in the heart of winter. *Hanukkah* is a reminder of the shared work of God and the Jewish people, partners in the brightening of the world.

The Zionist mystic and thinker A. D. Gordon wrote: "There will not be a victory of light over darkness as long as we do not recognize the simple truth, that instead of fighting the darkness, we must increase the light." From the first night of *Hanukkah*, and on each one that follows, as we add one more candle to the *hanukkiah*, my heart buzzes with a little more excitement at the sight of the beautiful lights. Yet I am most excited by the warm defiance the little candles offer in the midst of the shortened days and chilled air. May we all look for and find small victories in every day—cold or warm, in school and at home. Have a *chag sameach u'muar*—a happy and bright *Hanukkah*.

—Danny Weininger, Youth and Family Program Coordinator 🌟

Thank You continued from page 5

and engagement. The Search Committee will also update the community with several opportunities for planning discussions, and, of course, all final candidates will spend significant time here with our students, faculty, Gan families, and community at large. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions as we begin this process, feel free to reach out to the committee at GanSearch@adasisrael.org.

We look forward to another wonderful year together at the Gan, as our students continue to learn and grow. And we look forward to embarking on this journey together. 🌟

Musical Moments continued from page 5

We will meet Sunday, December 10, 2:00–4:00 pm, for a workshop and jam session. The workshop is open to all levels of musicians, whether you read music or not.

Howard Ungar—trumpet player and *shofar* blower extraordinaire—will teach songs that he has learned from over 20 years attending klezmer festivals and playing with musicians from Machaya, the Klezmatics, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and the Adat Shalom Klezmer Workshop. He will be joined by other musicians with whom you have danced here at Adas on *Simchat Torah*. So grab your instrument and come on down to the DC Klezmer Workshop at Adas Israel for some hot klezmer jams!

Questions? Contact howard_ungar@hotmail.com.



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**UPCOMING CHRONICLE
DEADLINE—**

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Friday, December 29, at noon