A Summer of Sun arrives at Adas Israel!
Every day since July 1st, I’ve awakened with a feeling of gratitude that I get to be the president of this congregation. I’ve known that we’re a leader in the Conservative Movement, that “everyone” knows Adas, that we’re considered a solid success by other congregations around the country. But it wasn’t until I attended the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Biennial Convention in Atlanta in early December that I discovered how much I’ve underestimated our reputation. Never mind the disquiet this former grammar teacher feels over the name of this organization. Never mind that it’s only been fairly recently that I’ve learned the correct order of the letters. I want to explain what this organization is and what we do for each other.

The USCJ is the trade association for Conservative congregations in North America, Israel, and beyond. Its purpose is to help these kehillot be successful. As an example, a few years ago our kehillah benefited from one of the USCJ’s leadership development programs, “Sulam (Ladder) for Current Leaders.” Then-President Arnie Podgorsky and President-Elect Deby Joseph led the Executive Committee and the Board through the process of decentralizing decision-making, strengthening the impact of our committees, and empowering our Board members to assume greater leadership. These improvements wouldn’t have been possible without the guidance of USCJ.

Perhaps the greatest benefit USCJ provides members is its Biennial Convention. If I’ve counted correctly, there were five plenary sessions, 79 workshops (“Gen Y, Z, and Israel”; “Making Space for Children of...” continued on page 19).

There is a famous midrash told of the quality of Abraham to see what is happening in the world around him. It goes like this: “And God said to Abraham: ‘Go from your land, your birthplace, and your father’s house...’” (Genesis 12:2). To what may this be compared? To a man who was traveling from place to place when he saw a palace in flames. He wondered: “Is it possible that the palace has no owner?” The owner of the palace looked out and said, “I am the owner of the palace.” So Abraham said, “Is it possible that the world lacks a ruler?” God looked out and said to him, “I am the ruler, the Sovereign of the universe.”

Abraham’s ability to see was not actually about sight; many people with sight do not see the world that is unfolding all around them. It is a way of being in the world. The ability to notice where there is suffering, where there is hope, where there is pain and to stop and bring it to light.

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Moses also had this incredible ability to notice both pain and injustice in the world as well as the holiness and beauty. The gift of noticing is what allowed him, a man who grew up in Pharaoh’s palace, to see the pain of the Israelites living under the cruel conditions imposed by the Pharaoh himself. After Moses kills the Egyptian taskmaster and flees from Egypt to Midian, the text makes clear that it was not Moses’ killing of the Egyptian taskmaster that led God to choose him, but actually his ability to notice the pain of another and the beauty and holiness still present in the world. In Exodus 3:3-4, Moses is tending the flock and sees the burning bush. Moses said, “I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn’t the bush burn up?” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look [emphasis added], God called to him out of the bush: “Moses! Moses!”

Noticing the world as it is, both its beauty and its pain, its light and its darkness, is the gift of prophecy. The ability to be aware, to name it, and to work to shift what is deeply broken is the quality of our greatest leaders and teachers. Some are born with this ability; most have to work to acquire this spiritual discipline.

In this month of January we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was the type of man who was born with the ability to notice both the glory of God’s world and the places that were burning in flames. He could see the human suffering caused by racism and oppression and the hope when people came together to speak out, to notice, and to dream of another world together. When we celebrate Dr. King’s legacy, let us commit ourselves to the spiritual practice of noticing. Of noticing the world as it is—with all its pain and suffering—and not give up on the world as it could be, a world where human dignity comes first, where equal opportunity...
Shabbat Shirah—The Shabbat of Song
January 27, 9:30 am, in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

We chant the words of Mi Chamocha in the Song of the Sea this week, as our Torah portion reenacts the miraculous moment of walking through the sea on dry land.

- What do we mean when we call God “majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, one who works wonders”?
- What is our connection to this ancient text and how do we relate to it in modern times?
- How do different musical settings of this text bring out different meanings, insights, and feelings?
- Join us for a musical and midrashic exploration of this text and celebration of Shabbat Shirah!

Casting Call!
Auditions for The Lion King of Persia Purim Spiel
Sunday, January 7, 12:30–1:00 pm

Do you love to sing and act? Join our cast of Adas members in this year’s Purim spiel. Be prepared to sing a song of your choice, a cappella. We look forward to hearing you!

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 difference among a

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

Hesed and Social Action Lev B’Lev Speaker Series with Angela King, co-founder of Life After Hate, speaking on ’Transforming the Hater’
Saturday, January 13 during Shabbat morning services and again at 1:15 pm, after kiddush

Angela King, a former neo-Nazi skinhead from South Florida who spent three years in prison for her part in the robbery of a Jewish-owned store, underwent a remarkable transformation while incarcerated: she went on to establish a nonprofit, called “Life After Hate,” founded by former violent extremists that inspires individuals to find a place of compassion and forgiveness. She will help us understand the process of transcending hate and the role we can play in catalyzing it on January 13 during Shabbat morning services and again at 1:00 pm after kiddush.

Angela's interests and areas of expertise include radicalization prevention, countering violent extremism (“CVE”), and the role of women in violent extremist movements. She is a co-founder of Exit USA, a program of Life After Hate that aids those who wish to disengage from violent extremist organizations and gangs. In her role as a speaker, consultant, and subject matter expert, Angela has been interviewed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, NPR, and the BBC, among others, and has received recognition and awards for her dedication to CVE, prejudice reduction, building communities of justice, and Holocaust education.

Lev B’Lev is committed to eradicating hate and replacing it with love and kindness, demonstrating solidarity with those targeted with hate, and promoting interfaith cooperation and understanding. Rais Bhuiyan, who kicked off our speaker series last October, will return to Adas on January 13 to participate in a panel discussion with Angela after her speech.

For more information about Lev B’Lev and how to become involved in one or more of its strategic initiatives, which include the speaker series, letter writing, vigils and rallies, and interfaith cooperation, contact Bruce Charendoff, brucecharendoff@yahoo.com.

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We thank everyone who supported our wonderful community during this year’s Adas Fund drive. Adas Israel is our home, our community, and our neighborhood. For those of you who have not yet made your contribution, it is not too late. Your contribution of any size will make a big difference to this community. To make your important contribution, please contact the synagogue office, 202-362-4433 or visit www.adasisrael.org/the-adas-fund.

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MakomDC January Learning:

'Open Beit Midrash' Night in the Biran Beit Midrash
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 @ 7:30 PM
A place to sit across the table from fellow seekers and explore the rich, sophisticated and sacred texts that have animated our people for so many years. We'll question together, grapple together, and passionately talk through the uplifting and challenging ideas these ancient and modern texts provide. Jewish learning has the potential to create an unmatched soulful energy. The “Open Beit Midrash” is where that energy is found.

Scholar: Rabbi Gordon Tucker
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 @ 7:30 PM
Join us as our January scholar, Rabbi Gordon Tucker, expands on the theme of Bridges and Boundaries. Rabbi Tucker is a renowned Jewish philosopher and published writer currently serving as the senior rabbi of Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY.

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

The Text
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 @ 7:30 PM
Explore transformative Jewish texts with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut in their original Aramaic and Hebrew. This means that we will break our teeth together and study with no translations but with lots of support from your peers and teachers.

Post-Kiddush Halakhah Class with Rabbi Aaron Alexander
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 @ 1:00 PM
Join us as Rabbi Alexander 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.

Ongoing Learning:

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, and on the third and fourth Fridays, Rabbi Alexander will use the Talmud as the prism for the weekly reading.

Beginners’ Boker Or Shabbat Study
SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM
JANUARY 6, Rabbi Herb Schwartz
JANUARY 13, Rabbi Aaron Alexander
JANUARY 20, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
JANUARY 27, Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.

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, 202-362-4433, ext. 112, for more information.

“What Do I Do Again?” with Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith
JANUARY 21, 28 AND FEBRUARY 4 AND 11
Join us this month as Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith teaches on two relevant topics: How does the Jewish Calendar work, and why are the Holidays always late? and What’s a Gabbai, what do they do, and can I do it, too? 🕗

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.
Save the Date
Kol HaOlam VIII
The 8th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition!
Saturday, March 10 @ 8:00 pm
Register at adasisrael.org/kolhaolam/
Join us for one of the most exciting Adas musical traditions of the year! Come and witness the incredible collegiate Jewish A Cappella groups from around the country sing their hearts out as they compete to be Number 1 in the USA! Who will be crowned champion in 2018?! Join us and find out!

Parking Permit Stickers
As part of our security precautions and procedures, we ask all congregants and school parents to register their automobile information. The permits are numbered and tracked. The parking permit stickers speed up the flow of traffic into our lot, aid us in parking lot management, provide a level of security, and assist us in case of an emergency or blocked car.

If you don’t have a parking decal, please contact Carol Ansell at the front desk via e-mail at Carol.Ansell@adasisrael.org or by calling 202-362-4433. Once you receive your form, please complete it and return it to Carol. Once the information is recorded, we will send you your parking permit. Please display the permit on the driver’s side of the windshield, top or bottom, your choice. The important thing is that it is visible to the security guard in the booth.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

education update
From the Director of Education
By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum
Our Adas Israel librarian, Robin Jacobson, and I were recently reflecting on “The Garden Song,” which includes the refrain, “inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow.” We often sing the first part with our students around Tu B’Shevat and draw on themes of celebrating nature and the land, the ideas of blessing seeds and their potential, and highlighting our role as caretakers for our world. But we also discussed how the song can be used to think about measuring—measuring growth, measuring time, measuring our impact. January feels like an appropriate time for these conversations as we begin the secular new year, honor MLK day and celebrate Tu B’Shevat. The lyrics of the song invite us to hold together dreams and big questions alongside the idea of smaller, manageable goals. May we find the time this month to both dream about the world as we imagine it can be and to lift up our small every achievements along the way.

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow.
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless these seeds I sow.
Someone warm them from below, ’til the rain comes tumbling down.

Snapshot of the Religious School—
First Grade
The Judaic curriculum for the first grade is built around Jewish storytelling. The curriculum uses different forms of Jewish storytelling to teach students about holidays, Shabbat, ritual, Jewish history, and Israel. Students will be introduced to the wide variety of Jewish narratives, including Biblical stories, midrash, historical narratives, and stories of Chelm to name a few. We read one or more books or stories every week. Children learn to identify the genre of the stories and begin to draw connections between different ones. A highlight of the year is the immigration unit, where many immigration stories are read (Rivka’s First Thanksgiving, Castle on Hester Street, When Jessie Came Across the Sea, Molly’s Pilgrim, and Something From Nothing). Parents share their own family immigration stories, and we create a class map to show the diversity of the students’ backgrounds. —Pam Gorin

Sixth Grade
This year we added a new component of our sixth-grade curriculum. We have welcomed Brenda Zaidman, who joined us in November to begin our “Cooking as a Jewish Home Ritual” program. Brenda is a professional pastry chef and cooking instructor. Over the course of the year, our students will get hands-on experience as they learn about the customs and history that bring so much meaning to foods we enjoy. We started with a deeper exploration of challah baking, from the history and braiding techniques, to the variations seen based on traditions and locales in the world. The students brought their
continued on page 9
own ideas and thoughts to a discussion about the various flavors and shapes seen today in stores and in pictures, as they explored what makes challah a special Jewish food. We will continue our cooking exploration this month as we prepare to celebrate Tu B’Shevat. —Sarah Tasman

Out-of-Classroom Learning at Adas Israel

While much of our time in the religious school is spent in the classroom—practicing the prayers, honing our Hebrew skills, learning about the holidays, and much more—an incredibly important element of our educational process is often outside it. As important as the in-classroom experience is, it is what we, both teachers and students, do outside the class that breathes greater life into our Judaism. In his canonical work of Jewish law, Mishneh Torah, Maimonides writes: “Torah that is not accompanied by malakha [work] will eventually be negated.” What we may learn from this is that we must be in the world, and apply our knowledge there, bringing together intellectual and physical pursuits. Similarly, we seek to find such opportunities for our students.

One of our most exciting out-of-school programs was this past November, when we took our sixth graders on the Fall Shabbaton, spending Shabbat together with lots of food, activities, and fun. Similarly, this spring we will hold our first Fifth-Grade Shul-In, where we will create a unique and exciting Shabbat environment for our fifth-graders here at Adas.

As for our older students, this summer we will continue the annual Abe & Minnie Kay 10th-Grade Israel Experience. Leaving the Israel Seminar class here in Washington, DC, the tenth-graders will have an up-close and in-person Israel experience, learning about the intricacies and history of the Promised Land. These are just a few of the projects we are working on and developing for our students in the spirit of bringing together Torah and malakha.

—Sarah Attermann & Danny Weininger

For Families with Young Children

As winter continues, we have plenty of upcoming programs to keep you and your children warm and entertained! Break out your fuzzy pajamas and biggest breakfast bowls for our upcoming events.

PJ Havdalah—Saturday, Jan. 27, 5:30 pm
National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day & Event—Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:00 am

Come for ice cream & singing with Ben Shalva, stay for Youth services after!

While the Gan’s Onah program (part day classes) are in session, our weekly programs are open to all.

Coffee Club for infants and their adults—
Tuesdays, 9:00–11:00 am in the Biran Beit Midrash

Yad b’Yad play group for toddlers and their adults—
Thursdays, 9:00–10:00 am in Room 105

Sing N’Play for children of all ages and their adults—
Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 am in the Library

For more information, contact Jocelyn Dorfman, Families with Young Children Engagement Coordinator, jocelyn.dorfman@adasisrael.com or 202-362-4433, ext. 229.

We want to hear from you! Do you want to see more or different types of programming for families with young children at Adas? Please let Jocelyn know! Her inbox and phone line are open for any and all suggestions or comments.

Gan HaYeled

Winter is here, and the Gan is a whirlwind of activity. From music class to movement class to cooking experiences to neighborhood trips, each day is an adventure. We invite all Adas members to peek at our bulletin boards for a glimpse into the life of the Gan. The Gan staff takes pride in its ability to connect with both Gan families and the greater Adas community.

It’s January and already time to register for the 2018–2019 school year. If you or someone you know is looking for an exceptional early childhood school experience, please be sure to check our Adas Israel’s own Gan HaYeled. With both traditional (onah) school year programs and year-round (shanah) schedules, the Gan has programs to fit most families’ needs. Please visit our website, adasisrael.org/Gan, for more information or call the Gan office, 202-362-4491, to sign up for our remaining Open House—Jan. 19, 10:30 am, and stay for Shabbat sing. Abby Koplow, Abby.Koplow@adasisrael.org, Gan office manager, will also be happy to help you with reservations or other questions.
During these challenging times, there is much communal discussion about the pursuit of peace, but how and where do we seek peace? In his book, The Soul of Jewish Social Justice, Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz speaks to this: “The most important first step to healing our world is to tend to our spiritual lives and to our deepest inner spaces. When we are morally focused and spiritually healthy, we can transcend ourselves for the other in their moment of need.” We invite you to join JMCW this month for our weekly yoga programs, Wednesday evening meditation sits, and our special MLK weekend “Return Again” service. With all the distractions and pressures we face today, Jewish contemplative practices can help us seek a peace within and give us the strength and wisdom to support our communities as we together pursue peace in the world.

Upcoming JMCW Services, Programs, and Workshops

Return Again to Shabbat w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander & The Return Again Band, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 6:30 PM

Special MLK Weekend Shabbat
This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! In the style of our innovative outdoor Kol Nidre service, join our reflective journey into the Shabbat experience with a musical and spiritual excursion into prayer and song. A festive Israeli tapas-style feast follows.

Weekly Wednesday Evening Meditation, 7:30–8:30 PM
With four alternating leaders, these sessions include a teaching, an exploration of Jewish meditation techniques, and a silent meditation sit. Beginners and experienced meditators alike are most welcome!

WEEKLY YOGA
Yoga Classes will begin in 2018 on Wednesday, January 3.

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–12:15 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 registrations, updates and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/ or the JMCW Facebook Group.

JMCW Recommends . . .

The Soul of Jewish Social Justice, by Dr. Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz. Published in 2014, this is a comprehensive look at how Jewish wisdom is relevant to many of the most pressing moral issues of our time. This book is available in the Adas library, as are many others on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. You can find some of these under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

In honor of MLK weekend, listen to these two episodes from On Being with Krista Tippett (www.onbeing.org); they are available to stream online or as podcasts.

• Arnold Eisen on The Spiritual Audacity of Abraham Joshua Heschel—This moving dialogue between Krista Tippett and the chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary includes inspiring audio tape of Heschel speaking.

• Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks on the Dignity of Difference—Rabbi Sacks, former Chief Rabbi of the UK, says: “God is sending us a big challenge, a really big challenge—we are living so close to difference.”

The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW) offers services, programs, and workshops that help deepen contemplative practices as part of our individual and communal religious and spiritual lives. Watch this space each month to follow these JMCW offerings. Visit our Adas web page at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/, where you can also subscribe to our e-newsletter. Find us on Facebook: JMCW @ Adas Israel!
life cycle
Milestones

Births
Izidora Fen Colchamiro, daughter of Shoshana Hecker & Eric Colchamiro, was born October 6. Alma Pearl Inlender Gerson & Aviv Nachum Inlender Gerson, daughter and son of Daniella Hope Gerson & Talia Rachel Inlender, were born October 30. Ziva Sternreich, daughter of Michelle Sternthal & Zeke Reich, was born November 1. Eliana Rukin-Hoffman, daughter of Alan Rukin & Heather Hoffman, was born November 12. Joshua Aaron Simons, son of Jane & Daniel Simons, was born November 17. November 12.

Eliana Rukin-Hoffman, daughter of Alan Rukin & Heather Hoffman, was born November 12. Joshua Aaron Simons, son of Jane & Daniel Simons, was born November 17. We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.

Emily Stern, granddaughter of Joyce & Michael Stern, and Jared Kerzner were married in Evanston, IL, November 12. Emily Stern, granddaughter of Joyce & Michael Stern, and Jared Kerzner were married in Evanston, IL, November 12. We wish the newlyweds and their families a hearty mazal tov.

B’nai Mitzvah
Amalia Levitin, January 6
Amalia, daughter of Sarah and Adam Levitin, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. She shares this simcha with her younger brothers, Kalman and Isaac; her grandparents, Susan Levitin and Phyllis and Douglas Rimsky; and the rest of her family and friends. She remembers fondly her grandfather, David Levitin, z”l. Amalia began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, has continued through the religious school at Adas Israel, and spends parts of her summers at Capital Camps. For her mitzvah project, Amalia is collecting baby supplies for families in need.

Ethan Wolin, January 13
Ethan, the son of Nicole Elkon and Neal Wolin, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He is celebrating his bar mitzvah with his brother and sister, Oliver and Zoe; his grandparents, Andre Elkon and Mimi Liebeskind; and other family and friends. For his mitzvah project, Ethan is working on voting rights by helping to register voters, volunteering with voting rights organizations, and leading a seminar at his school on ballot access and other voting rights issues.

Gabriel Taylor, January 20
Gabriel Sivan, son of Andrew and Alexandra Taylor, is a seventh grader at Silver Creek Middle School. He is a graduate of the Jewish Primary Day School NC, where his appreciation for Jewish values and traditions grew. Gabriel shares his simcha with his brother, Noah; his grandparents, Luis Landau, Harvey and Sharlynn Taylor, and Helene and Elliott Appleman; and other family members and friends. For his mitzvah project, Gabriel is helping animals in need by creating videos that highlight dogs available for adoption through City Dogs Rescue. At this special time he remembers his Abuela, Sara Landau.

Members in the News
Mazal tov to Ari Gerhengorn, Amelia Davidson, and Ilan Cohen on winning one of the Best Speaker awards as part of the CESJDS team at the recent Junior Statesman of America Fall Convention!

In Memoriam
We mourn the loss of synagogue members:
- Todd Miller
- Adeline Jolson

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
- Margery Feingold, mother of Cindy Miller
- Benjamin Karasik, father of Pamela Karasik
- Gail Rubin, mother of Brad Brooks-Rubin
- Eleanore Waxman, mother of Donna Bardin

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. ✉
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pages before entering services. 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 our Hazzan.

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEMP): Every Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full Psukei D’zimra (introduction 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 volunteer leaders, services Todah, 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 Tod Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menahiah Peters. rotates for students in grades K–5, is led by Sarah Altermann or Jeremy Kadden. ‘Dial-in’ for Programs & Services: If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-666-4405.

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

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Joan Nathan Featured Speaker at Sisterhood Opening Event, Nov. 12

By Helen Kramer

Over 70 congregants filled the Beit Midrash on November 12 to hear Jewish cookbook author extraordinaire Joan Nathan discuss her most recent book, *King Solomon’s Table: A Culinary Exploration of Jewish Cooking from Around the World.* Nathan related that the book started on a family trip to India when she saw a sign in the Cochin synagogue stating that Jews have been in India since King Solomon’s time. Nathan started to research this history and was invited to an archaeological conference to meet scholars researching food.

The Babylonian roots of Jewish food are found in 44 recipes inscribed in cuneiform on three clay tablets from about 1700 BCE preserved in the Babylonian Collection at Yale University. These recipes include one for borscht, and list ingredients such as chickpeas, lentils, sesame seeds, dill, cumin, coriander, and nigella seeds. Our patriarch Avram came from Ur, 700 miles south of Babylon in present-day Iraq, and Nathan said that Iraqi food is the basis of all Jewish food. One of the earliest Jewish recipes in existence is *t’beet*, the Sabbath chicken baked overnight by Babylonian Jews, which uses coconut oil instead of margarine.

Nathan emphasized that Jewish history is intertwined with the variety of foods Jews eat around the world, and that preparing Jewish food is a way of remembering our culture. Jews were prominently engaged in the spice trade as early as King Solomon’s time, plying the Mediterranean and Indian oceans, and, later, during colonial times the Atlantic and Caribbean oceans, when Jewish merchants brought allspice from Jamaica to Europe. They were always adapters, and in southern France they were cattle traders, a dramatic change from the traditional lamb and goat meats.

More insights into Jewish cuisine are found in shopping lists from the Fustat (Old Cairo) *genizah*. The documents from the 10th through 13th centuries show that Jews were trading by land and sea among Aden, Bangalore, and Ceylon. After Jews fleeing France, Germany, and Spain settled in Poland at the invitation of King Casimir III in 1334, they adapted the Sephardic recipe for...
Sisterhood News continued from page 10

Sabbath stew, the German Jewish name for which was shalet, which we know as cholent. It returned to southern France as cassoulet.

Following her talk, Nathan signed copies of her cookbook, and participants enjoyed a buffet brunch featuring some of her recipes.

‘Shedding Light on Sarah and Her Successors’ at Sisterhood Shabbat March 9–10

This year’s Mozelle Saltz Sisterhood Shabbat Scholar is Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner, JTS Vice Chancellor emerita. Dr. Lerner’s speaking schedule for the weekend is:

• **Shabbat Dinner**, Friday, March 9
• During Shabbat services Saturday, March 10; and after kiddush at 1:00 pm in the Biran Beit Midrash.

She will discuss our first matriarch, Sarah, a paragon of Jewish motherhood. What do our sacred texts tell us about her as a mother, a person, a wife? Did her successors follow her example? Should she be our model? How have rabbinc and modern writers portrayed her? Together we will look at some of the biblical and later texts that shed light on these questions, examining our preconceptions in light of the texts themselves.

**Kavanah** opportunity: volunteer to read Torah or lead services for Sisterhood Shabbat, March 10. To read Torah, contact Marilyn.kincaid0999@verizon.net or sabrinasojourner@gmail.com. To lead services, or serve as a gabbai or usher, contact Barbara Gelman, bgelman1@gmail.com.

Upcoming & Continuing Events

A Woman and Her Genome:

What Every Jewish Woman Should Know about Her Genetic Makeup Sunday, January 7, 11:00 am–noon, Biran Beit Midrash

Come hear two experts in the field of genetic testing, **Evelyn Karson**, MD, PhD, and **Dee Dee Shiller**, DO, discuss how you can know your risk of transmitting genetic diseases to your children and help you learn your risk for developing various cancers and, in some cases, reduce that risk. All—women and men, Sisterhood members and non-members—are welcome.

Whether you are single, dating, married, or already have a child and are planning to add to your family, genetic screening is important for anyone who is pregnant or considering pregnancy in the near future. JScreen, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing the transmission of genetic diseases, will be at Adas Israel to provide on-site genetic screening. Dr. Evelyn Karson will also discuss this screening. JScreen’s panel, which tests for more than 200 diseases, is easy, confidential, and done via saliva sample. A geneticist will be present to answer all questions. Results will be provided a few weeks later by a certified genetic counselor via phone or video teleconference. Free saliva test for the first 25 pre-registrants! Others will pay $149. (Note: You must be between the ages of 18 and 45 to receive this screening.)

Dr. Dee Dee Shiller will also discuss multigene screening to help women learn their risk for developing various cancers. This screening can be done with a blood sample taken at your own doctor’s office. Depending on your family history, this screening is available to men and women of all ages.

To register for the event or for testing, visit adasisrael.org/sisterhood. Have questions?

Contact Jodi Ochstein, jodiochstein@gmail.com.

Take a Walk!

**Monday, January 8, 6:00 pm**

Take a Walk! on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm and explore a neighborhood on foot followed by dinner. Bring your friends (men welcome!), stories, and sense of adventure. Cancelled if inclement weather. Next up: Monday, January 8, in Foggy Bottom. Meeting place: Foggy Bottom Metro at base of outdoor escalators. Contact Merrill Goldsmith, kayakerdc@yahoo.com, or 301-493-5654, with questions.

Sisterhood 2.0

**Thursdays, January 11 & 25, 6:45 pm**

Re-focus. Re-assess. Re-engage. Negotiate your salary, start your own business, re-start your career, change direction mid-career. How are you doing this? How can we help (each other)? Join us every other Thursday for drinks and discussion January 11 and 25 (after the 6:00 pm Sisterhood minyan at Adas), 6:45–8:00 pm, at BINDAAS in Cleveland Park.

Register online at www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood or on our Facebook page, @AdasisraelSisterhood. For questions, contact Jodi Ochstein, jodiochstein@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Sews, Knits, and Crafts

**Wednesday, January 17, 7:30–9:00 pm, Youth Lounge**

Sisterhood Sews, Knits, and Crafts (oh, my!) on January 17, 7:30–9:00 pm, in the Youth Lounge (next date is Wednesday, February 21, same time and location). Lesleyfrost0@gmail.com is the contact.

Next Weekday Torah with Sisterhood: ‘Censorship in Jewish Texts and Tradition’

**Tuesday, January 23, 10:00 am, Funger Hall**

Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood at 10:00 am on Tuesday, January 23, in Funger Hall. (Please note the new location.) Community leader and scholar Norman Shore will lead a discussion about censorship in Jewish texts and tradition.
Sisterhood News continued from page 15

The Talmud discusses suppressing parts of the Bible, including the story of Lot and his daughters, the Golden Calf, and the curses. Are there traditional texts and language today, from the *Tanakh*, *Talmud*, or *sidur* that we should avoid, downplay, or keep from children? Do they contradict some of our basic principles?

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood is an engaging approach to traditional Hebrew text study that offers participants the opportunity to study and discuss challenging texts and ideas. This class is open to the entire Adas Israel community. Classes are monthly, except in the summer, and usually meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome.

**Weekday Torah with Sisterhood** meets on the following days in 2018: February 20, March 20, April 17, May 8, and June 1.

To RSVP and for more information, 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.

‘Sisterhood in Your Community’ Brunches

Sisterhood members are getting together each month for a dairy brunch to schmooze and get to know one another. If you’d like to host a brunch on a Sunday morning of your choice, or to attend a brunch, contact June Kress, 202-316-3439 or junebkress@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Works from Home

You are invited to join a 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. For more information, contact June Kress, junebkress@gmail.com or 202-316-3439. All are welcome.

Volunteer Opportunities through Sisterhood

A woman shouldn’t have to choose between feeding herself and her personal health. Sisterhood and the Adas Israel Social Action Committee are teaming up to organize a collection drive for *I Support The Girls* (ISTG). ISTG, the amazing charity started by local mensch Dana Marlowe, collects and distributes donations of bras and sealed packages of tampons and maxi pads to homeless women and girls in the DC area, across North America and 4 locations worldwide.

The drive begins on the first night of Hanukkah and continues through Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Look for the donation box in the cloak room. Join us in bringing light into the world by helping to restore dignity and self-worth to thousands of women.

Contact Jodi Ochstein, jodiochstein@gmail.com, or Jamie Butler, jgb3611@gmail.com, with any questions. *Please donate new bras only.*

**Reading Partners’ information session, Thursday, January 18, 6:30 pm**, at Lois Fingerhut’s home. Lois spoke to us at the opening event about this volunteer opportunity to help a child read and make a difference in the trajectory of someone’s life. We hope you’ll consider joining Lois to learn more.

Please register online before January 11. The link is on www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood and on our Facebook page: @AdasIsraelSisterhood.

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 website for more information on the campaign and how to give: http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/. ✉

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

Snow Closures

The synagogue office follows the federal government inclement weather policies. When the federal government closes, the synagogue office closes. When the federal government opens late, the synagogue office also opens late.

When in doubt, visit adasisrael.org or call the synagogue/school for a taped message. If the synagogue offices are closed due to the snow, all daytime and evening programs are cancelled. If the schools are closed, but the building/offices are open, please call the synagogue office regarding evening programs and classes.

The daily *minyan* typically meets twice daily, regardless of the weather, but again, please consult the web site.
Children’s literature abounds with whimsical stories about characters that magically wander off the page into the real world. But for some adult booklovers and their special books, something like this actually occurs. Sometimes a book speaks so powerfully to the reader that it infuses and shapes the reader’s everyday life.

This is what happened to Ilana Kurshan and Daniel Mendelsohn, the authors of two erudite and moving “bibliomemoirs” about the books that transformed their lives and relationships. *If All the Seas Were Ink* (2017) chronicles Kurshan’s immersion in the Talmud while recovering from a traumatic divorce. *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and An Epic* (2017) recounts Mendelsohn’s experience teaching Homer’s *Odyssey* to college freshmen and to his father, who audited Mendelsohn’s seminar. Both books skillfully entwine ancient texts with the authors’ personal stories.

**If All the Seas Were Ink**

In Jerusalem, Ilana Kurshan is famous as “the woman who reads and walks.” A literary agent, translator, and inveterate booklover, she has mastered the art of reading while navigating tricky terrain, riding elevators, and waiting in line at the post office. So it is not surprising that a chance remark from a friend would lead her to sign up for *Daf Yomi* (“daily page”), sometimes called “the world’s largest book club.” Kurshan joined thousands of Jews around the world who read the same page of Talmud each day, completing the entire work in seven-and-a-half years. When she began *Daf Yomi*, Kurshan was in her late 20s, newly divorced, grieving, and adjusting to life as an American in Israel. As she struggled to cope, the notion of turning over a new page each day had a symbolism that appealed to her.

The Talmud accompanied Kurshan through the twists and turns of her life as she traveled for work, tentatively began dating, remarried, and became a mother. Kurshan never missed a day of Talmud study and often found surprising connections between the text and her life. Even as mundane a task as emptying the dishwasher in the morning reminded Kurshan of the Talmud—specifically, of the Temple priest’s morning chore of clearing away the previous night’s ashes from the altar. To Kurshan, each of these morning tasks is a ritual that “links the day that has passed to the day that is dawning.” Her sensitivity and love of learning permeate this captivating book.

**An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and An Epic**

Daniel had some misgivings, despite Jay’s promise to sit silently in class. And indeed, Jay could not resist sharing his provocative opinions. During the first class, he declared that Odysseus was no hero, no matter what classical tradition said. Measured against Jay’s tough standards, Odysseus was a liar, an adulterer, and a whiner who needed too much help from the gods.

As the seminar progressed, Daniel began to see themes in the *Odyssey* that bore on his not-always-easy relationship with Jay. The epic begins with a son, Telemachus, who seeks knowledge about his father, Odysseus, and learns that Odysseus has a complex, many-faceted identity. Likewise, Daniel comes to appreciate dimensions of Jay’s personality that were not obvious in the impatient, judgmental father of Daniel’s childhood. Daniel reveals early on that his book will end with Jay’s death. This poignant fact makes the book, as one reviewer said, “a kind of Kaddish: an act of mourning that involves making peace with the dead.”

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**Book Chat on Judas by Amos Oz**

**Sunday, January 28, 10:00 am, in the Adas Library**

Join the discussion of this short, but powerful novel of ideas—patriotism, loyalty, and treason—by a celebrated Israeli author. Co-sponsored by the Library and Sisterhood. For more information, please contact Robin Jacobson, librarian@adasisrael.org.
**Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month**

February 2018

**Inclusion Celebration Shabbat, Feb. 10**

This February will mark the fourth year that the Adas community is celebrating Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. This is a wonderful continuation of our work in lifting up the value of inclusion and removing barriers to full participation in our congregational life. These programs, presented by the Inclusion Task Force, comprise a unique set of opportunities to look at the progress we have made and to examine areas for improvement.

We welcome your active participation in the following events:

**SUNDAY, FEB. 4**

10:00 am–12 noon in Wasserman Hall

Joe Shapiro, NPR investigative journalist and the author of No Pity, about people with disabilities forging a new civil rights movement, will discuss his book and the advancements that have occurred as disabled people continue to fight for their rights.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 6**

9:00 am–5:00 pm, Capitol Hill: Rayburn House Office Building

The Jewish Disability Network, led by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and co-sponsored by Adas Israel, looks forward to your participation in Jewish Disability Advocacy Day on the Hill. To register, visit adasisrael.org/inclusion. Please contact inclusion@adasisrael.org if you would like to attend.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 9**

7:00–8:30pm in the Youth Lounge

Shabbat Dinner—Everyone is welcome! Please continued on page 20

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**Ryane Nickens and the TraRon Center**

Last year, we introduced Ryane Nickens to our community at our Friday evening dinner after the MLK Return Again service. She talked about the pain and suffering she and her family have endured as a result of losing family members to gun violence in our city. Over the course of the past year, we’ve forged a powerful relationship with Ryane around our work in gun violence prevention. Ryane and several of us at Adas have committed to changing policies around gun access and gun violence through our work with the Washington Interfaith Network. But Ryane knew that was not enough. She’s now expanding and building for the future of our city, especially for those on the margins. She found that the emotional and mental stability of those left to cope with the loss of their loved ones goes unattended. That is why she has formed the TraRon Center to fill this void by “supporting, counseling, and empowering victims and family members of gun violence through group sessions, community education, advocacy and creative arts.” Lois Fingerhut, who chairs our gun violence prevention team, has joined the first Board of Directors for the Center.

Your love and support will provide much-needed direct service to victims and members of their families who are dealing with devastating loss. The TraRon Center is positioned uniquely to provide counseling services for those who do not trust traditional counseling by connecting survivors in group sessions led by a survivor. Please take a look at her page, [https://www.gofundme.com/support-families-of-gun-violence](https://www.gofundme.com/support-families-of-gun-violence), and consider supporting her critical, life-saving work.

**Poverty, Homelessness, & Housing Team News**

**Observe Presidents’ Day by Serving the Community at SOME (So Others Might Eat).** Adas Israel is back at SOME, hosting breakfast and lunch on Monday, February 19. Please join us as we help prepare and serve meals to hundreds of DC residents. This is a fantastic family event (anyone age 13 or older can participate). Visit the Adas website to register or contact Sharon Burka, slburka@aol.com, for more information.

**Winter Warmth Drive for Friendship Place.** Many thanks to all of the Adas members who responded generously and filled our coat room bins with scarves, sweaters, hats, gloves, and warm socks. The winter clothing was distributed to men, women, and children experiencing homelessness at Friendship Place’s December 10th Winter Warmth Drive held at Washington Hebrew Congregation. Friendship Place has been providing innovative solutions to homelessness in our community since its inception 25 years ago.

**Racial Justice Working Group News**

On Sunday, November 19, more than 20 members and friends of Adas’s Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) engaged in a robust discussion about the lengthy history of racialized housing segregation in the U.S. Richard Rothstein’s book, The Color of Law, served as the platform from which key themes were taken: racially restricted covenants, redlining, racial zoning, blockbusting, and lack of access to mortgage loans for African Americans in the early to mid-20th century.

To further understand how housing discrimination based on race has severely affected people of color in the U.S., RJWG chair Salina Greene... continued on page 19
presented an in-depth history of the racially segregated housing issues in DC’s Ward 4 to make the book’s concepts more relatable to the community’s social action goals. After the discussion, members of the Affordable Housing Working Group, which is part of the Poverty, Homelessness, and Housing Team, agreed to collaborate more closely with the RJWG and the Gun Violence Prevention Team, as our teams are working toward a common goal within the larger DC metropolitan area. For more information on how to become involved in the RJWG, please contact Salina Greene, SierraYen@aol.com.

**From the President** continued from page 2

Interfaith Families”; “Teaching Talmud in English”; “Exile, Longing, and Return in the Work and Vision of Leonard Cohen”; and “Building and Growing a Thriving Teen Community”—how can one possibly choose?; an array of Shabbat services; two special meetings for large congregations like ours; four concerts (one at the Ebenezer Baptist Church), and more, all packed into four days. I’m still recovering. Five of us from Adas Israel were there: Rabbi Steinlauf, who gave a presentation on the innovations he brought that transformed our synagogue; Lisa Kanef, who won a scholarship from GatherDC to participate in the learning and social activities geared to Millennials; our Executive Director David Polonsky; Jeffrey Goldberg (ok, ok, he was a featured speaker and gave a brilliant analysis of anti-democratic forces operating in the world today), explained the strength of Conservative Judaism in combatting these forces, and managed a shout-out to Adas Israel); and me.

The first person I saw when I arrived was Lisa, who told me how great it feels that everyone she’s met knows about Adas Israel, and she doesn’t have to explain anything about who we are. Indeed, every rabbi there either knows our rabbis or wants to. Every synagogue president wants his or her shul to be like ours. Arnold Eisen, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, grinned when he told me, “There’s exciting things going on in your synagogue!” Rabbi Bradley Arston, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (“the California seminary”), congratulated me on what we’re doing. And Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of the USCJ, spoke about us at some length during his remarks in the convention’s opening session, singling us out as a model of innovation for other congregations that want to grow and prosper. Very few of them are growing the way we are, or present the array of programming we do, or have our energy.

We’re a model for the movement because we’ve learned faster than others how to translate the values of Conservative Judaism into today’s language and relevant action. Our gifted rabbis are responsible for this, first Gil Steinlauf and now Lauren Holtzblatt and Aaron Alexander, who, along with the rest of our clergy team, Cantor Ari Brown and Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, will continue leading us with vision and intention. And since we know how to do this, we have a sacred obligation to help others learn it, too. This is why David Polonsky is a mentor to other executive directors. This is why when people approached me for advice at the convention, I focused on helping other leaders understand how to build on the strengths inherent in their own kehillot to effect meaningful change, step by step, so they can translate their values into 21st-century language and action appropriate for their congregations.

Those of us at the convention are immensely proud to be part of this kehillah, and I know you are, too. I left Atlanta wondering how many of our members realize that we are unique. We’re accustomed to what we have, our classes and prayer services and spiritual experiences, clergy who want to help us grow, a highly professional staff, and lay leaders focused on excellence. We are a congregation of limitless opportunities.

Believe me when I say that’s very unusual.
REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAM NEWS

Life with the Al Shehabi Family

THE ADAS ISRAEL KAHAL

HESED BUILDS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Estelle Jacobs & Kathie Hoppe

An essential part of the work of the Hesed Committee is to build a kahal (community) to foster connections among Adas members. The sacred and welcoming space at Adas Israel is a perfect setting to bring together members in many different ways. Members of this team contact a special group of Adas members every Friday afternoon to wish them a Shabbat Shalom and to let them know the Adas Israel community remembers them. Many of these members have been unable to attend services for years, yet they still want to feel part of the Adas community.

Kathie Hoppe, co-team leader of the Hesed Calls team, had been calling Estelle and Irv Jacobs for a long time, and they enjoyed their conversations so much that Estelle decided to invite Kathie to their home so they could meet in person. They formed a bond and Kathie continued to call and visit the Jacobses frequently.

Estelle and Irv decided to make the connection to Adas even stronger and hosted a party this past summer in their home to reconnect with people from the synagogue whom they had not seen in a while. The theme of the party was “Jewish Humor.” Delicious food was served, followed by a healthy dose of laughter for all. Irv Jacobs performed a humorous monologue, and the group listened to an entertaining CD of Jewish humor.

The old saying, “The past informs the present,” was certainly true in this situation. Estelle is a past president of Adas Sisterhood and was among the original founders of the Hesed Committee. She knew back then, and continues to affirm, that the Adas community is special on so many levels. Estelle is delighted that her work many years ago promoting a caring community continues to this day. In fact, several current Sisterhood members attended the party.

The Hesed Committee encourages all Adas members to reach out and make a connection. The Adas Kahal is a vital and special part of the Adas experience.

For more information on how you can get involved with the Hesed Committee, visit Hesed@adasisrael.org.

INCLUSION

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register in advance at adasisrael.org/inclusion.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

9:30 am in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

Inclusion Celebration Shabbat; d’var Torah by Adas member and Autistic Self-Advocate Zoe Gross; Post-Kiddush Panel Discussion, 1:15–2:15 pm in Biran Beit Midrash
This month celebrates your six-year anniversary as an Adas Israel member. What drew you to Adas six years ago, and what keeps you here today?

In 2011, I was attending services and other events at Sixth & I on a regular basis. As I approached the top end of Sixth & I’s age demographic, I looked for the next chapter in my religious practice and affiliation. Rabbi Shira Stutman suggested I check out Adas and, as they say, the rest was history.

I quickly found a comfortable home at Adas and became a member within a few months of checking it out. I enjoy the vast programming and diversity of service options a large synagogue like Adas offers. In spite of our large size, Adas also provides me a close-knit community feeling that reminds me a lot of the much smaller synagogue of my youth (Kesher Zion Synagogue) in Reading, PA.

Over the past couple of years, you have become increasingly involved at Adas. Most recently you helped with the analytics of our Rabbinical Search task force. You were affectionately referred to as a “Master of excel spreadsheets.” What do you do when you’re not volunteering your time at Adas?

I work as an operations analyst for UIP Property Management and found my job through my affiliation with Adas. I met Steve Schwat, a UIP co-founder and fellow Adas member, through our mutual volunteer work with Anne Frank House. He invited me to work for him in 2013 as a temporary engagement and I’ve been there ever since.

You have been a volunteer usher for the High Holy Days the past couple of years. This year, one of your shifts was outside for the Return Again Kol Nidre service. You had a scary moment when someone picked up your tallit thinking it was one to borrow (thankfully it was returned safely within a few minutes). What makes your tallit so special?

My tallit is one of a kind because the atarah is a custom design my mother lovingly needlepointed over the better part of a year. I have a sentimental attachment to several religious items. My other tallit was a bar mitzvah gift from my grandfather, something he was very proud of, and my mother made that atarah, too.

My tefillin originally belonged to my great-grandfather, and we believe it came over with him when he immigrated to the United States. My father found the tefillin after his mother died and had them restored so he could wear them during the year he said kaddish. He handed them down to me a few years ago after I discovered my bar mitzvah tefillin became pasul. I keep a photo of my great-grandfather in my tefillin bag to remind me that when I wrap tefillin, I not only bind myself to the words of the Sh’ma, I also bind myself to four generations of my family.

You participated in the Marine Corps Marathon this year! Not as a runner, but rather as a photographer. How long have you been interested in photography? How did you get the credentials to take photos for the marathon? Any tips on how to take a really great photo?

I’ve been into photography since I was a kid but only got into it in a serious way in the last eight or so years. I engage in photography as a hobby to relax but have recently started taking on paid assignments to help make a very expensive hobby affordable.

I’ve recently gotten really into sports and concert photography. To gain experience and exposure, I volunteered with TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) to photograph its runners in the Marine Corp Marathon, each of whom was running in memory of a lost loved one killed in combat.

You need to position yourself to take a great photo. During the marathon, I spent more than four hours sitting Indian-style in the middle of the road with runners coming by me on both sides. This allowed me to shoot from a very low angle and make the TAPS runners look larger than life.

In addition to being very active at Adas, you are extremely involved at 6th & I. Why is participating in Jewish life so important to you?

I continue in the example set for me by my parents who both were very active in our synagogue and the Jewish community in general. My father served a term as synagogue president and for many years was chair of the House Committee and Cemetery Committee. My mother was very involved in Sisterhood and ran our synagogue’s gift shop and kosher wine shop.

Our community had no kosher butcher, so my parents operated a kosher meat cooperative out of our family-owned pharmacy. As a small boy, I got very excited every six or eight weeks when a huge tractor-trailer pulled onto our small parking lot to deliver cases of frozen meat ordered from Chicago. I would get upset if the delivery came before I got home from school.

It’s the start of the secular New Year. Do you have any resolutions or things you want to accomplish in 2018?

I’d like to continue to grow my photography skills and get back into long-distance bike riding. I’d love to train for a century (100-mile) ride if my knees and back cooperate.
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**Adas Fund**
In Honor Of: David Bubes’s loyal family by Adele Buckhantz.
In Memory Of: David Bubes by Adele Buckhantz.

**Anne & Ned Bord Endowment Fund**
In Memory Of: David Bubes by Joanie Miller Levine.

**Anne Frank House Fund**
In Honor Of: Wedding of Daryna Mattes & Shahar Colt by Robert & Barbara Cline.

**Aronson Family Library Fund**
In Honor Of: Betsy Strauss by Sarah Brooks.

**Benjamin James Cecile Special Education Fund**
In Memory Of: Benjamin “Jamie” Cecile, Trudy Glassman by Joe Cecile & Judith Friedman.
Mabel Taylor by Michael & Cathy Gildenhousen.

**Bereavement Fund**

**Bernard & Rita Segerman Endowment Fund**
In Memory Of: Bess Torgoff, David Ruben by Rita Segerman.

**Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund**
In Appreciation Of: Cantor Brown by Sherry Kaiman.
In Gratitude For: Cantor Brown’s support of the family of David Bubes by Harriet Bubes.
In Honor Of: Adas Israel clergy’s incredible help in making Sophie’s bat mitzvah possible by Rick Mallen & Laurie Rubenstein.

**Cantor Saltzman Youth Music Endowment Fund**
In Memory Of: Mary Nissenson by Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

**Capital Fund Contributions**
In Honor Of: Linda Rosenzweig by Jeffrey Herbst & Sharon Polansky.
In Memory Of: David Bubes by Douglas & Maureen Robins.

**Congregational Kiddush Fund**

**Daily Minyan Fund**

**Dan Kaufman Children’s Program Fund**
By: Jeanne Mandleblatt.
In Honor Of: Judith Heumann’s birthday, Minna Kaufman at Hanukkah by Stephen Klatsky & Dale Kaufman.
In Memory Of: David H. Kaufman & Daniel Kaufman by Minna Kaufman.

**Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund**

**David B Sykes Family Endowment for the Arts**
In Memory Of: David Bubes by Diane Sykes.
Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund
With Thanks To: Rabbi Rosenbaum for leading the family Yom Kippur service by Robert Carlin.

**Esther Saks Abelman Yiddish Cultural Fund**
In Memory Of: Philip Goldiner Levy by Diane Abelman Wattenberg.

**Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund**
In Memory Of: Mabel Taylor by Ricki Gerger, Zev Lewis.

**Executive Director Discretionary Fund**
With Thanks For: My High Holy Day aliya by Rita Segerman.

**Fund for the Future**
In Memory Of: Samuel Gertman, M.D. by Susan Ugelow.

**Garden of the Righteous**
In Memory Of: Rhoda Connick by David Connick. Dr. Robert Kurzbauer by Ruth Ann Kurzbauer.

**Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund**
In Honor Of: Dolly Kay’s special birthday by Harry & Judie Linowes.
In Memory Of: David Bubes, Jules Coler & Joseph Lenowitz, all by Harry & Judie Linowes.

**Havurah Kiddush Fund**
In Honor Of: Art Hessel’s birthday by Dava Berkman, Paul & Claudia Taskier. Marriage of Emily Stern & Jared Kerzner by Dava Berkman. Mary Hammer’s birthday by Arnie & Mary Hammer.
In Memory Of: Bonnie Jacobson by Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

**Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund**
In Honor Of: Adas Israel clergy’s incredible help in making Sophie’s bat mitzvah possible by Rick Mallen & Laurie Rubenstein.

**Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund**

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

**Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington**
In Memory Of: Julia Mayer Rosenberg by Dr. Joel Rosenberg. Dr. Sidney B. Ross by Judith Ross, Milton Shinnberg & family.

**Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects**
In Memory Of: Mary Nissenson by Rhoda Ganz.

**MakomDC Donation**
In Memory Of: Harry Kahn by Hazel Keimowitz.

**Mikvah Fund**
By: Nancy Lifmann.
In Honor Of: Rabbi Batya Glazer by Lori Schuldiner Schor.
In Memory Of: Harriet Gilbert by Abby Volin.

**Mikvah Capital Campaign**
In Honor Of: Our daughter Lise Stern, chanting the haftarah on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, 5778 by Michael & Joyce Stern.

**Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund**

**Offerings Fund**
With Great Appreciation For: Bob Peck, Ira Berkower, Stan Cohen & Michael Goldman leading services for the residents & for the prayer books donated by the synagogue by the residents of Five Star Premier Residences.
In Memory Of: Muriel Rothman by Paula Goldman. Dr. Benjamin Karasik by Darryl...
Musical Moments
continued from page 5

Bulgur, a Sher, a Zhok, and a Khosidl?
Then you will want to join us for the first ever DC Klezmer Workshop at Adas Israel. We will be meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Sunday January 21, for a workshop and jam session. The workshop is open to all levels of musicians, whether or not you read music.

Howard Ungr, 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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January 2018
Tevet–Shevat 5778

A SACRED BLEND OF TRADITION & INNOVATION

UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINE—

March:
Wednesday, January 31,
at noon