

Adas Israel Congregation February / Shevat-Adar

# CHRONICLE

THE  
WILD

PURIM @ ADAS 5778



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FEATURING "THE LION KING OF PERSIA" PURIM SPIEL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - THURSDAY, MARCH 1

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## THIS YEAR OUR PURIM PRISM WILL BE "THE WILD"

Unleash your wild side this Purim. As you enter Adas this year, you'll experience a 360° "Wild Adas" effect. Our Megillah reading will be interspersed with musical scenes, rewritten and reimagined into the: "The Lion King of Persia." We'll also be showing short video clips which will highlight some of the uniquely Adas ways our community experiences itself in the "wilds" of this world!

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## CELEBRATE THE 5 PURIM MITZVOT...

### \$ GIVE

The *megillah* (9:22) teaches that we must send *Matanot Laevyonim*, gifts to the poor, as a part of our merrymaking. This obligation is fulfilled through any type of gift; whether of money, of food or drink, or even of clothing. One should, however, try to give a substantial gift.

### 📁 GIFT

The *mitzvah* of *Mishloah Manot* is based on *Megillat Esther* (9:19 and 22), which states that Purim was established as a day "of gladness and feasting, [a *yom tov*] and of sending portions one individual to his friend and gifts to the poor."

### 🍷 DRINK

"Rava said: One is required to become intoxicated on Purim until the point that he cannot differentiate between 'Cursed be Haman' and 'Blessed be Mordechai.'" (*Gemara Megillah 7b*)

### 👂 HEAR THE MEGILLAH

A person is obligated to recite the *Megillah* - once at night and again the next day. (*Shulchan Aruch - Code of Jewish Law 687:1*) Most of us fulfill this obligation by carefully listening to, and following along with, the public reading of the story. Essentially, reader and listener become one intermingled and sacred voice.

### 🍴 FEAST

The *mitzvah* of having a banquet on Purim delineates another important moment the life of our people. And plus, Jews love food!

LEARN MORE:  
[ADASISRAEL.ORG/PURIM](http://ADASISRAEL.ORG/PURIM)

# Purim 5778/2018

Join us to celebrate the festive holiday of *Purim*!

*Erev Purim* is Wednesday evening, February 28; *Purim* is Thursday, March 1

The essential feature of *Purim* is its demand that we use a different, unique, prism to peer into our lives and communities. Day in, day out, the typical windows into humanity are determined for us (usually by Facebook and Google), but on *Purim* we flip the model on its head. We deploy the *Book of Esther* to reframe the picture of life. We use humor where seriousness so often prevails. We mobilize laughter as the avenue from which old truths become newly experienced. We certainly can't do *Purim* every day, but if we never see the world with *Purim* goggles, we'll likely miss some of the sacred stuff that lies always right before our hearts.

This year our *Purim* prism will be "The Wild." When life and society feel like they offer nothing but the challenges and turbulences of the wild, humans must muster a strength of heart, a resilience, that can carry them through. As you enter Adas this year, you'll experience a 360° "Wild Adas" effect. Our *Megillah* reading will be interspersed with musical scenes, rewritten and reimagined into the "The Lion King of Persia." We'll also show short video clips that will highlight some of the uniquely Adas ways our community experiences itself in the "wilds" of this world!

Throughout the building we'll play on some of the key ingredients one needs in order to survive and thrive in the wild. The ability to find food, secure water, build shelter, and survive predators requires wit, resilience, traveling in packs (community), silence, tenacity, ferocity, and a healthy dose of faith in a hidden God.

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

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

One of the most important things we learn from *Purim* is that no person can exist alone. We share with others not only

### Full Purim Schedule

#### Sunday, February 25

**10:30 am:** Gan HaYeled Pre-K *Purim* Carnival, Kay Hall

**11:00 am:** *Purim* Carnival for Religious School students, Kay Hall, Wasserman, and Cohen

#### *Erev Purim*, Wednesday, February 28

**5:30 pm:** Gan HaYeled *Purim* Program with Cantor Brown & Religious School students

**6:00 pm:** *Mincha*, Library

**6:15 pm:** Heart of the Wild Drum Circle, Biran *Beit Midrash*

**6:15 pm:** Pizza for Families with Young Children & Religious School Students

**6:30 pm:** Full *Megillah* Reading (TEM), Gewirz *Beit Am*

**7:00 pm:** Full *Megillah* Reading & "Lion King of Persia" *Purim Shpiel*, Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

**8:45 pm:** Wild Party, Kay Hall

**8:45 pm:** Heart of the Wild Drum Circle continues, Biran *Bet Midrash*

#### *Purim*, Thursday, March 1

**7:15 am:** Morning *Minyan* & *Megillah* Reading

our daily lives, but our hopes and dreams as well. Hillel taught: "*Al tifrosh min ha'tzibbur*—Do not separate yourself from the community." In each of the *mitzvot* we perform on *Purim*, we learn something new about the concept of sharing.

### Reading the *Megillah*

Each year, we are required to listen to the complete reading of *Megillat Esther*. We are instructed to listen to every word and to do this twice—evening and morning. Perhaps, in attending these public readings, we learn the value of sharing with the entire community recognition of, and appreciation for, our collective triumph over adversity.

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

### *Mishloach Manot*

Each year, increasing numbers of Jews are discovering the wonderful *Purim* custom of sharing food with friends and neighbors, giving at least two types of food to at least two

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## From the President

By Ricki Gerger



Sometimes the President uses this column to give you an update on what's going on in the synagogue. You usually hear about the things we're doing and the number of people doing them. Well, instead of giving you numbers, I'm going to try to explain the *effect* of some of the things we do here.

Let's start with our nursery school and our Religious School. Enrollment now is 170 in the Gan and 450 in the Religious School, which is terrific, and up from a year ago. Perfect! Wonderful! *Yasher koach!* But what does that actually feel like? One recent *Shabbat*, after *kiddush*, as I was about to leave the building, a young boy, maybe 10 years old, stopped me and asked if I had a cell phone. Putting aside the *halachic* considerations of my answer, I asked whom he needed to call. "Well," he said, "my mother thought my father was taking me home... and my father thought my mother was... taking...me...home..." (I suspect this happens more often than we know!) The point of the story is that here's a young boy who doesn't know me, who felt comfortable enough in our building to ask a stranger for help. This is what our school creates. Our kids get a great education. It's obviously a second home to them. Some of them run around like they own the place. (*Guess what. They do!*) What could possibly be more important than having our children feel comfortable and happy here?

Lots of other things happen when kids are in our building every day. Our security guards come to know each student by name. Members of our maintenance staff become

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## clergycorner



Rabbi Aaron Alexander

It seems we can't escape one aspect of our modern society that continuously emerges. When it comes to any perceived (or real) infringement of our self interests: *attack first and gather information later.*

It's not hard to understand why this is the case. Fragments of news are disseminated at such a rapid pace in the technology and social media age, that every piece of information—no matter how compromised or incomplete—is considered as truth. This reality is a precarious concoction that can swing both ways; society can be elevated, but just as easily denigrated. Sometimes public attack exposes rampant abuse of power and begins a period of reconciliation, and oftentimes innocent individuals become dehumanized tools for hyper-partisan agendas.

Perhaps some wisdom can be found in the Torah's famous story (*Parashat Balak*) of a king, a prophet, a donkey, and a wandering people.

As the Israelites traveled the desert and approached Moab, King Balak sensed great danger for his community. He acts on his immediate fear and asks the renowned seer, Balaam, to curse (read: attack with words) the Israelites. Balaam immediately springs into action by asking God for permission to go on this curse-filled journey. God first denies this request but soon after permits Balaam to set forth. What follows is quite remarkable. Each time Balaam looks as though he is going to curse the people, just the opposite happens. He instead offers expansive blessings. This significantly perturbs Balak and he angrily inquires why Balaam did not curse as he said he would. Balaam answers: "I can only repeat faithfully what God puts in my mouth." And this happens three times with slight variation.

*Let these words percolate for a moment.* "I can only repeat faithfully what God puts in a mouth."

Were it that each of us could sense, intuit, or divine the words that God may place into our mouths. Words that can only manifest as blessings rather than curses. What might we refrain from saying in the heat of any one moment? Who may be spared humiliation and needless anguish before a frightening situation is fully illuminated?

Yet the absence of talking donkeys that perceive God's angels ought not unburden each of us in discovering how our mouths can speak God's message of love, compassion, life, and truth. It may need to be, perhaps, as my teacher Reb Mimi Feigelson (*the very first woman to be ordained as an Orthodox rabbi*) describes:

God sends us postcards every day. The only thing is—they aren't rectangle with a shiny picture on one side and words on the other. God's postcards come in the form and shape of people and events. They come at

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# Inclusion Celebration Month, February 2018

## Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month February 2018

This month marks the fifth year that the Adas community is celebrating Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. This is a wonderful continuation of our work of 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 examine areas for improvement. Please visit [adasisrael.org/inclusion](http://adasisrael.org/inclusion) for more information.

### SUNDAY, FEB. 4

Adas Israel is proud to announce a presentation by NPR Investigations Correspondent Joseph Shapiro in celebration of National Jewish Disability Awareness Month. Shapiro is the author of *No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement*. This event will also feature a screening of *Lives Worth Living*, an Independent Lens film from PBS about the legislation that was “an emancipation proclamation for the disabled.” Visit [pbs.org/independentlens/films/lives-worth-living/](http://pbs.org/independentlens/films/lives-worth-living/) for a preview of the film. Bagels and coffee will be served. 10:00 am–12:00 pm, Wasserman Hall

### TUESDAY, FEB. 6: Jewish Disability Advocacy Day on the Hill

Join Cantor Brown, Rabbi Alexander, and Rabbi Holtzblatt for a day of political action and advocacy on Capitol Hill. 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. Registration link is [adasisrael.org/inclusion](http://adasisrael.org/inclusion). Please contact [inclusion@adasisrael.org](mailto:inclusion@adasisrael.org) if you would like Adas to cover your registration fee. 9:00 am–5:00 pm, Capitol Hill: Rayburn House Office Building



### FRIDAY, FEB. 9 Return Again Services & Dinner

**6:00 pm:** Return Again Service

**6:30pm:** Traditional Lay Led Service

**8:00 pm:** Community Shabbat Dinner

*D'var Torah* by Sara Vogler: “You, Me, Everyone—The Stories We Carry”

Sara Vogler, a member of the Inclusion Taskforce for three years, is a writer and artist, participating in several exhibits, most recently “Pancakes and Booze,” where she had sold an art piece. She is drawn to intentional community spaces and is looking to engage more in those areas this year through art and Jewish spirituality. In her professional life, Sara works at Health and Human Services as a program analyst.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 10 Inclusion Celebration Shabbat

**9:30 am:** *D'var Torah* by Shelly Christensen in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

**1:15–2:15 pm:** Post-Kiddush Panel Discussion with Shelly Christensen and members of Adas Israel's Inclusion Task Force in the Biran Beit Midrash

Shelly Christensen, MA, literally wrote the book on inclusion of people with disabilities, *The Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities*. Her award-winning work as program manager of the Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities at Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis led her to co-found Jewish Disability Awareness Month with the Jewish Special Education Consortium.



Shelly's work as founder and executive director of Inclusion Innovations, where she provides training, organizational and community development, and strategic planning so Jewish organizations and

communities can become more welcoming and inclusive, is the standard in the field of sacred community inclusion. She is a graduate of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware, which, she writes, “changed everything I believed about including people with disabilities and their families in the Jewish community and transformed my work as a change leader.”

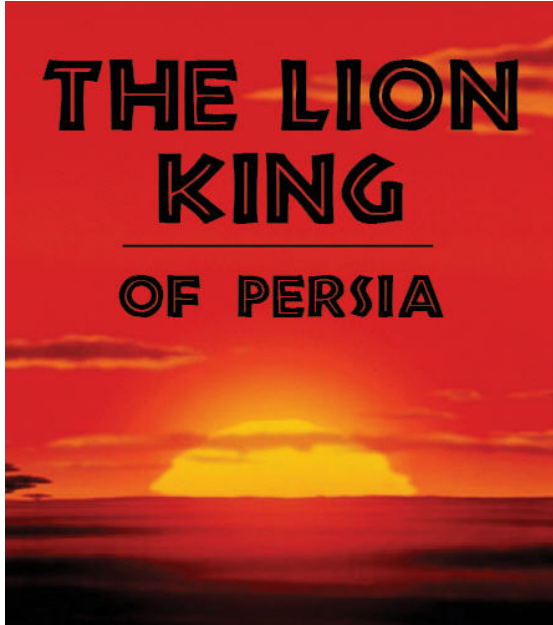
Shelly is co-founder of the new Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion funded by the Ruderman Family Foundation. She speaks at numerous conferences, her articles on inclusion and parent perspectives have appeared in journals and magazines, and she has published chapters in a number of books, including *Judaism and Health* and *Jewish Funders Network Disabilities for Funders*.

Shelly is president of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Religion and Spirituality Division. She is also adjunct faculty on disability and inclusion for the Union for Reform Judaism and serves on the advisory board for the new URJ Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Initiative. Her personal experiences navigating both secular and Jewish worlds as the parent of a child with a disability inspired her to direct innovation in the field. 🌸



# Musical Moments

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



## 'The Lion King of Persia' Purim Spiel

Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 pm

It's wild out there! "Be prepared" to laugh and sing as our Adas community acts out the *Purim* story, along with a traditional *Megillah* reading and wild spoofs and surprises.



## 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 Bulgar, 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, February 11, for a workshop and jam session. The workshop is open to all levels of musicians, whether you read music or not. Questions? Contact [howard\\_ungar@hotmail.com](mailto:howard_ungar@hotmail.com). ❀



## Hesed Open House & Annual Meeting With Special Guest Steven Cook, in Conversation with Susan Barocas

Sunday, February 11 @ 10:30am, Biran Beit Midrash

Hesed means "loving kindness." The Adas Israel Hesed Committee with its many teams of dedicated volunteers spreads loving kindness in our community with food, home visits, phone calls, beautiful gift bags, shivah meals, and more. Find out more about the activities of the Hesed Committee and learn how you can participate!

- Participate in a discussion with special guest Steven Cook, business and writing partner of Michael Solomonov, in conversation with Susan Barocas.
- Discover a Torah lesson from Rabbi Lauren about Hesed.
- Hear from the Hesed Team Leaders about the amazing work they are doing.
- Learn how you can get involved with Hesed.
- Enjoy refreshments made by the Hesed Cooking Committee, including a recipe from the Zahav cookbook.



**Steven Cook** is a business partner with his childhood friend, Michael Solomonov, in several successful restaurants in Philadelphia, New York and Miami—Zahav, Dizengoff, Federal Donut, Abe Fisher, Goldies and Rooster Soup Co. Together they wrote *Zahav*, the 2016 James Beard Foundation Cookbook of the Year, and their new book, *Federal Donuts*. The son and grandson of rabbis, Steven will talk with Susan about his work with Chef Michael, the importance of hesed and tzedakah (charity)

in his work and the establishment of the Rooster Soup Co., which donates 100% of its profits to support Philadelphia's Broad Street Ministry, providing meals and social services to the city's most vulnerable citizens. The Broad Street Ministry will receive a donation from Adas Israel in honor of Steven Cook and supporting the organization's work.



An active member of Adas Israel, **Susan Barocas** is a writer, chef, teacher and speaker. Susan also was honored to serve as guest chef for three White House Passover Seders hosted by the Obamas. She has made many appearances on television and radio, and her writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Moment* magazine, *Lilith* magazine and *Huffington Post*, among others. The director of the Washington Jewish Film Festival for several years, Susan also writes and produces documentary and

marketing films and consults with film festivals.

Register online at [adasisrael.org/hesed](http://adasisrael.org/hesed) ❀



# SAVE THE DATE

**Garden of the Righteous Honoring the Memory of Captain Gustav Schroeder of Germany**

**Sunday, April 15 at 10:30 am**



On Sunday April 15, Adas Israel Congregation will honor the memory of Captain Gustav Schroeder of Germany. Schroeder was captain of the *St. Louis*, which, in May 1939, set sail from Hamburg to the Americas with more than 900 Jewish passengers aboard. After crossing the Atlantic, the fugitives from Nazi Germany—many of whom already had been arrested once in the wake of *Kristallnacht* in November 1938—were denied entry by both Cuban and American

authorities. The pariah ship was forced to turn back to Europe. However, instead of heading straight back to a German harbor, Captain Schroeder stalled on the voyage back, refusing to return to Germany until he had found a safe haven for his Jewish passengers. He even went so far as to develop a contingency plan by which the *St. Louis* was to be spectacularly shipwrecked near the English coast in order to force the British authorities to take some action.

Finally, however, a solution was found, and the passengers were allowed to disembark in Antwerp, Belgium, after Belgium, Great Britain, and France had agreed with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to each take in a certain number of people. Had the *St. Louis* headed straight back to a German harbor, its Jewish passengers would have all certainly ended up in Nazi concentration camps. It was, thus, primarily thanks to Captain Schroeder's courage and determination not to abandon his Jewish passengers to their fate that many of them were able to escape the Nazis. On March 11, 1993, Yad Vashem posthumously recognized Captain Gustav Schroeder as Righteous Among the Nations ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)).

The Adas Israel Garden of the Righteous is a beautiful reminder of numerous acts of decency and daring performed by many non-Jews in the midst of one of the most tragic moments in human history. This program, initiated in 1992 by Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg to honor non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, is supported in part by the Peter Dreyer Memorial Fund, the Scott Dreyer Fund, and the Ryna & Melvin Cohen Senior Rabbi Program Fund. The entire community is cordially invited for this moving event. We look forward to seeing you there. ❀



**The 8th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition!**  
**Saturday Night, March 10**  
**@ 8:00 pm**

**Buy your tickets in advance at [adasisrael.org/kolhaolam](http://adasisrael.org/kolhaolam)!**



A cappella music is sweeping the country, and colleges and universities are a big reason

for that. The number of Jewish collegiate a cappella groups (that we know of) is approaching 50! Add to that popular TV shows like *The Sing-Off*, and anyone who's anyone now realizes how cool it is to be a singer without accompanying instruments.

There are competitions for a cappella groups out there, such as the Harmony Sweepstakes and ICCA, but there was a void in the Jewish a cappella world—at least until 2011! The inaugural Kol HaOlam National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Competition held in Washington, DC, saw Tizmoret (Queens College) crowned as the first official National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella champion. After Tizmoret repeated in 2012, Hooshir (Indiana University) claimed the title in 2013 and 2014, followed by Tizmoret again in 2015, Jewop in 2016, and Rak Shalom in 2017!

This year's competitors are **Ani V'Ata (NYU)**, **Chai Notes (Hofstra)**, **ChaiTunes (Emory)**, **Hooshir (Indiana)**, **Kaskeset (Binghamton)**, **Ketzev (Johns Hopkins)**, **Kol Sasson (Maryland)**, **Mezumenet (Maryland)**, and **ShireiNU (Northwestern)**.

Who will be crowned the next champion? And who will win the coveted Audience Favorite prize? Join us and find out. ❀



## Rabbi Gil Steinlauf Keynotes the USCJ Biennial Conference, 2018 Celebrating the National "Innovation Labs" Launch



*Yasher koach* to Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, pictured here leading the keynote session at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's biennial conference in Atlanta, GA, in December. Celebrating the launch of the national USCJ "Innovation Labs," Rabbi Steinlauf led the 900-attendee conference on the need for widespread Congregational Innovation and Reconnection in 21st Century Judaism. ✨



### We Want What You Want A Millennial Perspective on Engaging Younger Jews

Perspectives from the USCJ Biennial Conference, 2018

By Lisa Kaneff

When I was offered the chance to attend the USCJ conference as a millennial leader, I immediately said, "Yes!" and then... "What's USCJ?"

Inasmuch as many of you don't know me (yet!), it's important that I disclose a few things: I was raised in the Reform movement, I'm 36 years old, I have no children, I am not married, and I am a paid-in-full member of Adas Israel.

Why would I start with a list of demographics? Because for many synagogues, I am an anomaly. But in my cohort of 18 millennials at the conference, I was the norm. Or rather, the norm is that for our generation there is no norm. But here are a few things to understand about us: We're getting married

later. We're having kids later. We're riddled with debt... And we hate the term "millennial." It is a fair descriptor, but it's starting to feel like a pejorative. With respect to Jewish life, in particular, we are seen as the barrier to continuity. A problem to be solved. A box to be checked.

I'll tell you, though, that over three days in Atlanta, I had the honor to learn with, laugh with, sing with, plan with, and pray with some of the most engaged, passionate people who wanted nothing more than to eschew the term "millennial" and be called what we are: Jews. We want to be called Jews so we can be treated as Jews. Not as a problem. Not as a challenge. But as an integral part of the present, and, inevitably, the future. That being said...

The "Millennial" Leadership Track's goal was to empower people like us to redefine Jewish life for our generation and create resonant Jewish experiences, whatever they may be. We were told to go wild! Think big! Be radical! Innovate! So what did we come up with? What did we, as the leaders of our respective communities say we wanted?

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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 don't intersect. To learn more, visit [adasisrael.org/makomdc](http://adasisrael.org/makomdc). Register lectures or classes online or by calling Courtney Tisch, 202-362-4433, ext. 125



### MakomDC February Learning:

**2017–2018 Mendelson Shabbat Scholar:**

Scholar: Dr. Talya Fishman  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
@ 1:00 PM

Join us as our February Mendelson *Shabbat* Scholar, Dr. Talya Fishman, 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. Dr. Fishman is a professor of religious studies and modern intellectual history at the University of Pennsylvania whose work focuses on Judaism in the medieval and early modern periods.



**The Text 2.0: In-Depth Halakhah (Jewish Law) with Rabbi Aaron Alexander**  
TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 6, AND 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.



### 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.



### Boker Or Shabbat Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

FEBRUARY 3, Rabbi Herb Schwartz  
FEBRUARY 10, Rabbi Aaron Alexander  
FEBRUARY 17, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt  
FEBRUARY 24, Rabbi Elianna Yolkut  
*Boker Or* meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus. ✨



**adasLIVE**  
connected. immediately.

Adas Israel Congregation is pleased to offer livestreaming of many of our events in the Biran Beit Midrash, including our monthly featured MakomDC scholars. What is livestreaming? If you can't make it to Adas, you'll still be able to connect to a live feed through any computer, laptop or mobile device!

Visit [adasisrael.org/adaslive](http://adasisrael.org/adaslive) to view upcoming broadcast times and recently archived videos. ✨





## For Families with Young Children

Mark your calendar for these upcoming special events in February:

**Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children**—Friday, Feb. 16, 5:00 pm

**Erev Purim, Wednesday, Feb. 28**

5:30 pm: Program for Young Children in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary led by Cantor Ari and Religious School students

6:15 pm: Pizza Dinner for Families with Young Children in Cohen Hall

7:00 pm: Full *Megillah* Reading & “Lion King of Persia” *Purim Shpiel* in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

**While part-time classes of the Gan are in session, our weekly programs will be open for 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

We are also pleased to announce a new drop-in play group for infants and toddlers and their adults on **Mondays, 9:00–11:00 am** in room 343! For more information, please contact Jocelyn Dorfman, Families with Young Children Engagement Coordinator, at [jocelyn.dorfman@adasisrael.com](mailto: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.

## educationupdate



### When Does Hesed Begin?

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, Director of Education and Hesed Chair, Rae Grad

When Hesed 2.0 was launched at Adas two years ago, Rabbi Lauren emphasized that this was a “movement” not a “project.” A project has a beginning, a middle, and an end. A movement never stops and is integrated into every corner of Adas.

“When does *Hesed* begin?” was raised in early conversations about this new *Hesed* movement. Is *Hesed* for adults only? Experience tells us that people of any

age—adults and children—benefit from experiencing *Hesed*, on both the giving and receiving end. But how do we incorporate the values and practice of *Hesed* into the lives of the young people of Adas?

In the very first conversation with Rabbi Kerrith and the education department about how *Hesed* could be integrated into the beautifully designed Religious School curriculum, they quickly and easily identified how and when principles and practices of *Hesed* could be integrated into the Religious School. We were able to identify a specific values-based unit to begin an age-appropriate lesson in *Hesed*.

“Let’s write letters” Rabbi Kerrith suggested. And with that, the beginning of *Hesed* in the Religious School curriculum was born. This month Adas students are studying *Hesed* and doing an act of *Hesed* appropriate for their ages.

Rabbi Kerrith explains. One of our favorite things about working in the education department here is the opportunity to take the broader Adas vision and translate it for families and children. In doing so we are excited to integrate our Adas committees, members, and values with our existing curriculum.

Our *Achrayut* unit, defined in our curriculum as personal responsibility and “doing what you can to make the world a better place,” tackles some of the following questions: “What does it mean to be a responsible member of a family, group, or community? And it highlights texts such as “You are not obligated to complete the task, nor are you free to desist from it” (*Pirkei Avot*). These themes lead us to the power of relationships which we see as being at the core of *Hesed* work.

To that end, and in the model of the Hesed and Social Action committees’ joint Lev b’Lev project, we are embarking on a letter-writing experience with our students. Each grade will write letters that deepen a particular type of relationship and connect them to a different portion of our community.

The third grade, highlighting its year-long lens of “family,” will write letters to families with new babies to be included with Adas’s welcome baskets and meals.

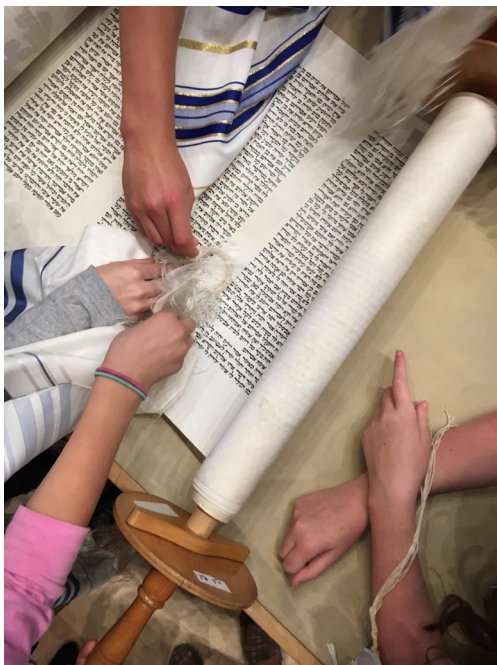
Fourth graders, with the theme of “self,” will be asked to write a letter to their future selves exploring their sense of obligation in the world, which we will return to them in sixth grade as they begin to think of service and *Hesed* opportunities in preparation for their *bar/bat mitzvah*.

The fifth grade’s framework of peers invites an exploration of how we connect with people when they are in need. Students will be writing to one another to connect around challenges.

continued on page 11

Sixth grade, which focuses on community, and in conjunction with the Embodied Ritual curriculum, will push our students on deciding how to be present during times of loss as they experiment with writing condolence cards.

Each of these letters is an investigation of self as much as it is an exploration of the deep roots of *Hesed*. We are excited to be part of the community-wide commitment to this work and look forward to more intentional partnerships in the future.



## Snapshot of the Religious School: Sixth-Grade Rituals Class

After a successful pilot last year, Naomi Malka, *B'nai Mitzvah* tutor and *Mikvah* Director, is once again teaching our sixth graders practical skills needed to enact core Jewish rituals. The class focuses on three main areas: synagogue rituals (such as having an *aliyah* and chanting a *haftarah*); home rituals (like chanting *Kiddush* on Friday night and Saturday afternoon); and embodied rituals (wearing a *tallit*,

putting on *tefillin*, and learning about immersion in the *mikvah*). In addition, class discussions will explore the ideas surrounding the symbolism, history, and meaning of these rituals. Students spend a great deal of time learning *haftarah* blessings and trope together in preparation for the sixth-grade retreat in the spring. Other goals include participating in a special *tefillin* festival, leading parts of *Birkat HaMazon* (Blessing after a Meal), and leading *Ashrei* at Religious School services.

—Pamela Gorin

The ancient world used to understand time in a strictly cyclical fashion—season came and season went, and as we read in *Ecclesiastes*, “there is nothing new under the sun.” Even though we mark the same moments and holidays each year, the Jewish calendar provides us unique opportunities to find renewal and excitement amid repetition. Even in the thick of winter we are reminded of dormant beauty nature during *Tu B'Shevat*, the new year of the trees. The day is marked by the blossoming of the almond tree, the first tree to bloom in the land of Israel. Shortly after, we mark another holiday on the way to longer and sunnier days.

As we approach *Purim*, the tradition tells us that we must “increase our happiness,” that the joy and celebration we feel on *Purim* will only grow and grow, as we progress toward the coming warmth of spring and summer. At the Religious School we're so excited about *Purim* and especially the *Purim* carnival. We can't wait for the costumes, games, activities, food, and glowing atmosphere of happiness that come with the special day.

—Danny and Sarah

## Important Dates & Upcoming Events

### Religious School

**Thursday, Feb. 1:** Summer Subsidy Applications Due

**Sunday, Feb. 18:** Presidents Day Weekend—NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Friday, Feb. 23:** 4th-Grade *L'Dor VaDor* Dinner

**Sunday, Feb. 25:** *Purim* Carnival

### Shabbat Youth Services

**Saturday, Feb. 3:** Tot Shabbat, Netivot

**Saturday, Feb. 10:** Tot Shabbat, Netivot

**Saturday, Feb. 17:** Tot Shabbat, Netivot

**Saturday, Feb. 24:** Tot Shabbat, Netivot

### Danny's Parshat HaShavua Classes

**Saturday, Feb. 3:** Yitro Parshat Hashavua class (grades 8–12), 12:30–1:15 pm

**Saturday, Feb. 10:** Mishpatim Parshat Hashavua class (grades 8–12), 12:30–1:15 pm

**Saturday, Feb. 24:** Tizaveh Parshat Hashavua class (grades 8–12), 12:30–1:15 pm

## Gan HaYeled



Observing and guiding the development of our students is an ongoing privilege for Gan staff. We take great pride in facilitating optimal

growth by providing enriching learning environments for all of our children. We recognize that each child learns in his or her own way, and we take the time necessary to identify what each child needs.

When teaching teams require more specific strategies, they have access to our Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist, Darci Lewis, and/or our Early Childhood Developmental Support Coordinator, Stephanie Slater, for boundless resources. The Gan benefits from the ongoing support from its well-regarded administrative team.

Registration is in full swing at the Gan. If you haven't signed up for our early childhood program, there are still select spots available. Contact Abby Koplow, Abby. Koplow@adasisrael.org, in the Gan Office or look on our web site for more information.



# Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW)

*It is one thing to race or be driven by the vicissitudes that menace life, and another thing to stand still and to embrace the presence of an eternal moment. —Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*

The holiness of *Shabbat* is a core part of Jewish ritual and tradition. On the seventh day, we are commanded to cease our quotidian work and join God as partners in creation—a time to just be. In his classic work, *The Sabbath*, Abraham Joshua Heschel talks about the Sabbath as a departure from the spatial world and a sacred entrance into the “palace of time.” This idea of *Shabbat* can inspire our mindfulness practices, even during the busyness of the first six days of the week. At any time, we can stop for a moment to savor a bit of the beauty and wisdom of *Shabbat*. Guided by our breath, our *neschama*, we can close our eyes, return to ourselves, and, as Rabbi Heschel says, *embrace the presence of an eternal moment*. In this way, Jewish contemplative practices can help us seek our *Shabbat* within.

## Upcoming JMCW Services, Programs, and Workshops

**Return Again to *Shabbat* w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander & The Return Again Band, FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 6:30 PM**

This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! In the style of our innovative outdoor *Kol Nidre* service, join our reflective journey into the *Shabbat* experience with a musical and spiritual excursion into prayer and song. 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

**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 (on February 7, 14, and 21).

**Moving Meditation Awakening Flow**

SUNDAYS, 11:00 AM–12:15 PM

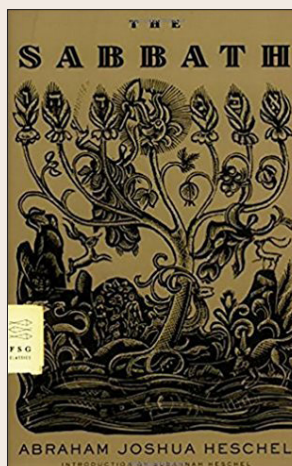
Morning flow promises to awaken and stimulate the sacred body through a full exploration of asana. This signature class draws inspiration from Mussar, *Kabbalah*, and the wisdom of Jewish thinkers.

For registrations, updates and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page at [www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/) or the JMCW Facebook Group.

For updates and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page, [www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/) or the JMCW Facebook Group.



## JMCW Recommends...



*The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel. This classic work is a beautiful meditation on the spiritual meaning of *Shabbat*. Rabbi Heschel speaks to the particular circumstances of contemporary life by contrasting our labor in the spatial realm with the Jewish idea of the sacredness of time.

*The Sabbath* is available in the Adas Library, as are many other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation,

and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)) for more information.

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

*What was created on the seventh day? Tranquility, serenity, peace and repose.*  
—**Genesis Rabba**

# lifecycle

## Milestones

### Births

Amit Lila Friedman-Roth, daughter of Rivka Friedman & Dena Roth, was born November 16.

Jack Kligerman, son of David Kligerman & Allyson Baker, was born December 8. Miles Scott Parnes, son of Jonathan Parnes & Ali Chrisler, and grandson of Lydia and Sandy Parnes, was born December 21.

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

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Sadie Foer, February 3

Sadie, daughter of Abby Greensfelder and Franklin Foer, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She is a passionate climate activist and the founder of her school's Sustainability Club. For her *mitzvah* project, she is introducing composting at Gan HaYeled, her alma mater. Sadie is also the founder/CEO of Potion-Up, company that manufactures and sells "elixirs for the soul."

She looks forward to celebrating with her sister Theodora and her grandparents, Linda Greensfelder, Ron Lecker, and Esther and Bert Foer.



### Elijah Ascher-DiGiacinto, February 10

Elijah, son of Halley Ascher and Jennifer DiGiacinto is a seventh grader at the Edmund Burke School in Washington. He began his Jewish education in kindergarten at Washington Hebrew Congregation, and then became part of the Adas Israel family in *Kitah Gimmel* at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Elijah enjoys playing soccer for his school

team as well as running track and is part of the Students Supporting All Social Identities (SSASI) club, which fosters creating a positive and safe space in which all people can express their true selves. His *bar mitzvah* project will be helping to find new homes for abandoned animals. Excited about his *bar mitzvah* and his entry into the Jewish community as an adult, Elijah shares his *simcha* with his close friends and loving family. At this special time, Elijah is thinking of his grandparents, Burton and Ina Finkelstein, both of blessed memory.



### David Diamond, February 17

David, son of Stephan Diamond and Unice Lieberman, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. He is a graduate of Gan HaYeled at Adas Israel and also attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He celebrates this *simcha* with his parents, brother Louis, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. For his *mitzvah* project, David is volunteering with DC Books to Prison, a nonprofit that

provides free books to individual prisoners and supports prison libraries.



### Lola Marvín, February 24

Lola Ruth Francesca Marvín, daughter of Robert and Lucille Marvín, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School in Washington. Her Jewish education began at the DCJCC and continued at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, Machon Micah, and Ma'alot DC. She celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with younger sister Sadie, the Meltsner cousins, and friends and family near and far. For her *mitzvah* project, which aligns with

Parsha Zahor, she is collecting shoes to donate to Soles4Souls, a nonprofit dedicated to "wearing out poverty."

## Members in the News

**Mazal tov** to the following members of the CESJDS student newspaper, *The Lion's Tale*, for their awards from Baltimore Student Media:

- Sabrina Bramson (Grade 10): First Place for Reporting in the Best Video for *A Closer Look: The Educational Support Services Program*
- Bennett Bramson (Alum '17): Second Place for Best Sports Feature for "From Blue and Gold to (Big) Red"

This contest was run by Towson University and is the biggest award for student journalism in Maryland.

**Mazal tov** to Daniel Weiss (Grade 12) for receiving the 2017 All-Met Honorable Mention for his cross-country running on the CESJDS team.

**Mazal tov** to Ilan Cohen, elected the new 2018 International Membership/Kadima Vice-President for Seaboard USY.

## In Memoriam

**We mourn the loss of synagogue members:**

Dolores Dobrow  
Melvin Jacobson  
Ruth Rheingold  
Irving "Bud" Rothstein

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

Shirley Ansell, mother of Carol Ansell  
Jeffrey Dunn, father of Eric Dunn  
Jerome Lefkowitz, father of Alan Lefkowitz  
Martin Schwat, father of Steven Schwat  
Norton "Nate" Weiss, stepfather of Lisa Schwat

## 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.

### 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](mailto:hesed@adasisrael.org).

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# february 2018

## Shevat–Adar 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>28</b> 12 Shevat 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:30 am Hebrew Class: Beginners 11:00 am Moving Meditation Awakening Flow 12:00 pm Chaverim Event 1:00 pm Bodies of Water 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>29</b> 13 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>30</b> 14 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>31</b> 15 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 7:00 pm JSC: Tu B'Shevat Seder 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism:	<b>1</b> 16 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle 6:00 pm Evening Minyan
<b>4</b> 19 Shevat 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:00 am Israel Class on Eretz Yisra'el in Thought, Text, and History 10:30 am Hebrew Class: Beginners 11:00 am Moving Meditation Awakening Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>5</b> 20 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>6</b> 21 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm The Text 2.0: Advanced Halakhah w/ Rabbi Alexander	<b>7</b> 22 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Love/Relationships 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	<b>8</b> 23 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle 6:00 pm Evening Minyan
<b>11</b> 26 Shevat 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am Hebrew Class: Beginners 10:30 am JMCW Classes: Wise Aging 11:00 am Moving Meditation Awakening Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>12</b> 27 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>13</b> 28 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Lauren 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism 2.0	<b>14</b> 29 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Life Cycle/Birth and B'nai Mitzvah 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	<b>15</b> ROSH CHESHVAD 7:15 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle 6:00 pm Evening Minyan
<b>18</b> 3 Adar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>19</b> 4 Adar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>20</b> 5 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Weekday Torah with Sisterhood 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>21</b> 6 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 7:00 pm The Max Ticktin Memorial Latke-Hamentashen Debate 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Grief and Death 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle	<b>22</b> 7 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle 6:00 pm Evening Minyan
<b>25</b> 10 Adar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am Hebrew Class: Beginners 10:30 am Gan HaYeled, Pre-K Purim Carnival 11:00 am Purim Carnival for Religious School 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>26</b> 11 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>27</b> 12 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>28</b> EREV PURIM 13 Adar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Gan HaYeled/ RS students Purim Program w/ Cantor Brown 6:00 pm Mincha 6:15 pm Heart of the Wild Drum Circle 6:15 pm Pizza for families with young children & RS Students 6:30 pm Full Megillah Reading (TEM) 7:00 pm Full Megillah Reading & "Lion King of Persia" Purim Shpiel 8:45 pm Wild Party in Kay Hall 8:45 pm Heart of the Wild Drum Circle (cont.)	<b>1</b> PURIM 14 Adar 7:15 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle 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 at 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance with a full *P'sukei D'Zimrah* (introductory Psalms), weekly Torah portion, and a *d'var Torah*. For more information, contact the Temple.

**Havurah Service:** Lay-led, participatory service at 9:00 am. Includes a full *P'sukei D'Zimrah*, weekly Torah portion, and a *d'var Torah*, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. For more information and to participate, e-mail [havurah@temple.org](mailto:havurah@temple.org).

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>16 Shevat</b> Morning Minyan Sisterhood: Mah Jongg Evening Minyan	<b>2</b> 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service with Rabbi Alexander 8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinner 5:12 pm 	<b>3 PARSHAT YITRO</b> 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bat Mitzvah: Sadie Foer 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 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 6:12 pm Havdalah
<b>23 Shevat</b> Morning Minyan Sisterhood: Mah Jongg Evening Minyan	<b>9</b> 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Return Again Service with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander 6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner 5:20 pm 	<b>10 PARSHAT MISHPATIM/SHABBAT SHEKALIM INCLUSION SHABBAT</b> 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Rosenbaum; Bar Mitzvah: Elijah Ascher-DiGiacinto; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha 1:15 pm Inclusion Task Force Panel Discussion 6:20 pm Havdalah
<b>ROSH CHODESH ADAR 30 Shevat</b> Morning Minyan Sisterhood: Mah Jongg Evening Minyan	<b>16 ROSH CHODESH ADAR</b> 7:15 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 Rabbi Holtzblatt 5:28 pm 	<b>17 PARSHAT TERUMAH</b> 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bar Mitzvah: David Diamond; Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 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 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha 1:00 pm MakomDC Shabbat Learning: Dr. Tayla Fishman 6:28 pm Havdalah
<b>7 Adar</b> Morning Minyan Sisterhood: Mah Jongg Evening Minyan	<b>23</b> 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary 6:00 pm L'Dor VaDor Shabbat Service for 4th Grade with Rabbi Rosenbaum and Cantor Brown 7:00 pm L'Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner 5:36 pm 	<b>24 PARSHAT TETZAVEH/SHABBAT ZACHOR</b> 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service/ Shabbat in Harmony; Bat Mitzvah: Lola Marvin; 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 6:36 pm Havdalah
<b>14 Adar</b> Morning Minyan/ Megillah Reading Sisterhood: Mah Jongg Evening Minyan	<b>2</b> 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Schwartz 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service with Rabbi Yolkut 8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinner 5:44 pm 	<b>3 PARSHAT KI TISSA</b> 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bat Mitzvah: Ruby Luzzatto 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 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 6:44 pm Havdalah

Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory sermons), *Shacharit*, and *Musaf*, a complete reading of the information, e-mail [traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org](mailto:traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org). at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read To-weekly Torah portion. A *kiddush* follows the service. For [havurah@adasisrael.org](mailto:havurah@adasisrael.org).

**Youth Shabbat Services:** Starting with *Tot Shabbat* for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. *Netivot*, for students in grades K–3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden.

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

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



## Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

Purim is coming, so you need to stock up on masks, groggers, and all manner of holiday items.



### Gift Shop Hours

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

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** We will be closed Sunday and Monday, February 18 and 19, for Presidents Day weekend  
*Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.*

202-364-2888  
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

## sisterhoodnews

### Shedding Light on Sarah and Her Successors at Sisterhood Shabbat, March 9–10



Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner,  
Guest Scholar for  
Sisterhood Shabbat



Donald Saltz, Chaver  
Extraordinaire, sponsor of  
Mozelle Saltz Guest Scholars

**Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner**, vice chancellor emerita of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will be our Mozelle Saltz (z"l) Sisterhood Shabbat speaker, as Adas Sisterhood celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism by Mathilde Schechter.

Dr. Lerner will be speaking

- at dinner Friday night, March 9 (sign up for community dinner by Monday, March 5, at [adasisrael.org/sisterhood/](http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/));
- during Shabbat services Saturday morning, March 10
- after kiddush at 1:00 pm in the Biran Beit Midrash.

Dr. Lerner's topic is our first matriarch, Sarah, a paragon of Jewish motherhood. What do our sacred texts tell us about Sarah as a mother, a person, a wife? Did her successors follow her example? Should she be our model? How have rabbinic 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.

## Upcoming & Continuing Events Sisterhood 2.0

**Thursdays, Feb. 8 and Feb. 22, 6:45 pm, at Bindaas in Cleveland Park.** Re-focus. Re-assess. Re-engage: Negotiate your salary, start your own business, re-start your career, change direction mid-career. Join us every other Thursday for drinks, discussion, and brainstorming.

For registration details, see our webpage, <http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/> (or the online Calendar on the webpage) or our Facebook page @ AdasIsraelSisterhood. Contact Jodi Ochstein, [jodiochstein@gmail.com](mailto:jodiochstein@gmail.com), with questions. **Note:** If you can come to Adas at 6:00 pm and help make a minyan beforehand, it would be appreciated.



### Special Tour of Kiev Judaica at GWU Sunday, Feb. 11, 10:30 am

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 11, 10:30 am, as rare books specialist **Shelly Buring** gives us a highlights tour of the Kiev Judaica collection—including material on Jewish women—at George Washington University's Gelman Library, 2130 H

St., NW. You may contact Shelly at [sburing@gwu.edu](mailto:sburing@gwu.edu). See our webpage (and online Calendar), <http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/>, or our Facebook page @ AdasIsraelSisterhood for registration details.

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**Sisterhood News** continued from page 16

## Take a Walk!

**Monday, Feb. 12, 6:00 pm**

On the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm, "Take a Walk!" will explore a neighborhood on foot and follow it with dinner. Bring your friends (men welcome!), your stories, and your sense of adventure. Next up: Capitol Hill, Monday, Feb. 12. Highlights: former synagogues, one in Southeast and one in Northeast; Lincoln Park; and Eastern Market. Meet at the base of outdoor escalators at Eastern Market Metro, 6:00 pm. Cancelled if inclement weather. Contact: Merrill Goldsmith, [kayaker\\_dc@yahoo.com](mailto:kayaker_dc@yahoo.com) or 301-493-5654.

## Sisterhood Works from Home

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 10:00 am–12:00 noon, at a private home**

Work from home? "Sisterhood Works from Home" is here to support, advise, and make you feel more connected. The Feb. 14 location is 3900 W Street, NW. Contact June Kress, [junebkress@gmail.com](mailto:junebkress@gmail.com), for more information. No need to be a Sisterhood or Adas Israel member; all are welcome.

## 'Sisterhood in Your Community' Brunch

**Sunday, Feb. 18, 10:00 am–12:00 noon, at a private home**



*A delighted group of new and old friends enjoyed Sarah Brooks's delicious, home-cooked brunch on December 24.*

Schmooze and get to know other Sisterhood members at a dairy brunch in the home of a Sisterhood member. To find out more, including the location of the brunch, and to RSVP, contact June Kress, 202-316-3439 or [junebkress@gmail.com](mailto:junebkress@gmail.com). To host a brunch on a Sunday morning of your choice, or to attend a future brunch, contact June as well.

## Weekday Torah with Sisterhood

**Tuesday, Feb. 20, 10:00 am, Funger Hall**

Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood at 10:00 am on Tuesday, **Feb. 20**, upstairs in Funger Hall. **(Please note location change!)** With Rabbi Elianna Yolkut, we will study the transition from the gift of the Covenant to individuals and their families, to the birth of the Israelite nation. We will explore themes of trauma, tragedy, transition, and triumph and the ways in which the Torah's narrative arc informs how we view our relationship to God, Covenant, and mission.

*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.

For more information, contact Marilyn Cooper, [MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com).

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## Sisterhood Knitting, Sewing, and Craft Circle, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 pm, Youth Lounge

The project to make two new Torah mantles for the *Havurah* is well under way. The group has learned appliqué techniques that are translating Arlette Jassel's vibrant and exciting designs into fabric art. The group is also making a new cloth to cover the Torah when it is in use, as well as new covers for the desk and table.

Advantages of the appliqué technique are that we are using a very small amount of sewing and it can be adapted to many other projects. For example, the group will also make *challah* covers for synagogue use.

Our knitting and crocheting group, under the guidance of Lea Stern, is both learning and improving its skills as its members work on a variety of projects. The group is also collecting yarn and knitting needles for hats and scarves that will be donated. Yarn and needles may be dropped off at any of our meetings, or contact Lesley Frost for other arrangements.

We meet on the third Wednesday evening of the month at Adas, at 7:30 pm in the Youth Lounge, and everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Lesley Frost, [lesleyfrost0@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyfrost0@gmail.com), for more information. Future meeting dates are **March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 20**.



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

Mah jongg continues weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. Bring

your National Mahjongg League card (\$8, [nationalmahjonggleague.org](http://nationalmahjonggleague.org)). The cards come in large print for \$1 more. For those new to the game, we'll teach you. This activity is not restricted to Sisterhood members. To express interest and RSVP for the mahjongg group, contact Barbara Friedell, 702-630-5106 (C); or [bhfriedell@yahoo.com](mailto:bhfriedell@yahoo.com).

## Torah Fund

Adas Israel is a proud participant in the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Torah Fund campaign. Torah Fund supports training of clergy and Judaic educators, administrators, and social work candidates studying at



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## Sisterhood News continued from page 17

Conservative/Masorti institutions. For more information on the campaign, and to view or purchase beautiful life cycle and greeting cards all year-round to benefit Torah Fund, visit <http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/>.

## Jewelry-Making Event



*Mindy Gaynor, Miriam Rosenthal, Barbara Friedell (bead maven), Lesley Rich (modeling yak necklace made by her mother, Barbara Friedell), and Ada Leach enjoy making jewelry.*

At our jewelry-making event, Dec. 3, bead maven Barbara Friedell shared her expertise and provided guidance to create appealing necklaces from our stash of assorted beads. She explained the process, from design on a bead board to crimping and clasping. Beads flew across the room in our frenzy of creativity. She challenged us with a coffee-table book, *Beadazzled*, brimming with colorful, strong pieces, and she awed us with her own beautiful designs that she and her daughter, Lesley Rich (yak necklace), modeled. Everyone left the event inspired and with a new appreciation of the craft.

**To keep up with Sisterhood**, check out our new Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AdasIsraelSisterhood/> or @AdasIsraelSisterhood, and our web site, [www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood](http://www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood), including online calendar; and see our announcements via @adas, e-mails, and the weekly Order of Service. ✿

## From the President continued from page 4

best friends with them. Our staff gets to smile throughout the day, when they hear the halls filled with laughter. I saw my friend Elijah (age 5) in the hall one day, and he stopped to wave at me. I gotta tell you, I melted.

Now let's turn to our work environment. One of the men on our maintenance staff, Mike Freeman, left us last summer to take a job at the World Bank, where his father and his brother work. This was the third time the World Bank had offered him a position, and he finally said yes, because this time it wasn't fair to his family for him not to. Before he left, he asked our Operations Director Carole Klein if he could continue working at our cemetery "on the day the members go out there during the High Holidays." That experience has been that meaningful to him. And thus his presence here has been that meaningful to us.

Third, I'm going to plug the work of our Hesed Committee, through which we touch many, many people. Kathy Hoppe and Harriet Isack organize telephone calls to our oldest congregants each week to say, "*Shabbat Shalom*." Ari Strauss and Betsy Strauss arrange for people to visit members who are homebound. Susan Barocas and Kristen Carvalho have people cooking and baking and filling the freezer. Edna Povich and Janet Scribner ensure that meals are delivered to the bereaved and to people who are ill or recovering; Mary Hammer does this for new parents; Susan Klein and Julia Schulman connect new parents to additional support services. Andrew Davis writes Hesed notes. Michael Fingerhut and Sharon Polansky coordinate creation and delivery of Hesed bags to new members and new parents; Pamela Sislen coordinates delivery of these bags to the recently bereaved on the first *Shabbat* after a loss. Many, many people serve on these teams.

So how does all this feel? I can tell you it feels great, because I've been extremely well cared for through this committee, fed and chauffeured around after two hip replacement surgeries. Edie Hessel even took me to her hairdresser when I needed a haircut! (He's great. Some of you know the true magnitude of that gift!) And here's where you come in, whether you participate in the activities of this committee or not: Please let us know when someone needs our help. Since I find it hard to ask for help sometimes, I know not everyone is comfortable asking for themselves. So when you know of someone Hesed can help, let me know, or Marcy Spiro ([marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org](mailto:marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org)), or Rae Grad, chair of our Member Engagement Committee ([rgrad@comcast.net](mailto:rgrad@comcast.net)). We'll take it from there. And should you want to help, please let us know that, too. Better yet, come to the Hesed Committee Open House on Sunday, February 11, at 10:30 am, to learn more about the work of each of these teams.

When people tell me they "just feel good" when they walk into our synagogue, it's because of all these things, and more. Activities like these transform us into a welcoming, warm community. It's because both the givers and the receivers carry a joy that transcends time and space, and that joy makes its way throughout our building.

What have you experienced at Adas Israel that has brought you joy? I'd be grateful to hear about it at [president@adasisrael.com](mailto:president@adasisrael.com). ✿

## Follow Us on Facebook



Visit our Adas Israel Facebook Page at [facebook.com/adasisraelcdc](https://www.facebook.com/adasisraelcdc) to get up-to-the-minute information in your community. Just "like" our page!

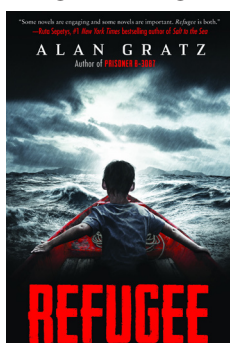
## Life as a Refugee: Children's Books

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director

*"You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt." Exodus 23:9.*

Can reading books and stories help children develop empathy—to care about other people, especially those who are different from them? Recent scientific studies suggest the answer is yes. Tellingly, so does Jewish tradition. Even the youngest Jewish children learn the *Exodus* story of Hebrew slavery in Egypt. According to Rabbi-scholar Shai Held, the Torah emphasizes our slave history to make us more empathetic: "the Torah seeks to transform us into people who see those who are vulnerable and exposed rather than looking past them."

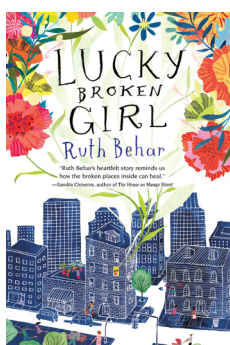
In that same spirit, several excellent new children's books about child refugees (some Jewish) help young readers identify with refugees, who today number in the millions. The three books described below (all for ages 9–12) can also serve as a springboard for parents looking for ways to discuss the global refugee crisis with their children and relate it to events in Jewish



### **Refugee by Alan Gratz**

This gripping book weaves together the stories of three young refugees and their families who seek escape from different countries in different historical periods (Germany, 1939; Cuba, 1994; and Syria, 2015). Joseph is a Jewish boy on board the *MS St. Louis*, the ill-fated ocean liner that left Germany bound for Cuba. Isabel is a Christian girl fleeing Cuba's repression and food shortages in a homemade, rickety boat heading for Miami. Mahmoud is a Muslim boy from war-torn Aleppo, Syria; he is on an arduous, dangerous journey

across Europe toward Germany. Despite their different backgrounds, the three young people have much in common: fright, grief over the loss of their homes, and pressure to grow up quickly.



### **Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar**

Based on the author's own life, this novel tells the story of Ruthie Mizrahi, a Jewish girl who emigrates with her family in the 1960s from Cuba to Queens, NY. Like many immigrants, Ruthie's family struggles to learn English and attain financial stability. Then disaster strikes—Ruthie is injured in a horrific car accident. Doctors wrap her in a body cast and confine her to bed for many months. Despite the bleakness of her situation, Ruthie blossoms during her confinement. She develops a love of art and literature, makes friends with her artist-neighbor from

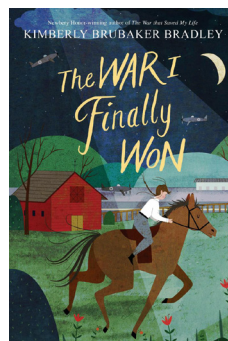
Mexico, and tries to be patient with her mother, who is homesick for Cuba and depressed about being housebound with an invalid daughter.

### **The War I Finally Won by Kimberly Bradley**

This book is a sequel to Bradley's *The War that Saved My Life*, but can be read as a stand-alone novel. The story is set in England during World War II. Ada, a plucky 11-year-old orphan, is the primary character. She and her younger brother live in an English seaside village with their guardian, a kind woman named Susan.

The story's refugee is Ruth, a teenage German-Jewish girl placed in

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Susan's household. The British government is holding Ruth's parents in an internment camp as resident aliens. Ada and others suspect Ruth and her parents of being Nazi spies. They are unconvinced by Ruth's protests that her Jewish family is even more anti-Nazi than the British.

Ada's suspicions of Ruth resemble widespread fears today that refugees may be secret terrorists, even if the refugees are themselves fleeing terrorism. Like *Refugee* and *Lucky Broken Girl*, this book immerses young readers in a refugee's experience, encouraging empathy and blurring the distinction between "us" and "them." ❀

**JDAIM** February  
Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month is Jewish  
Disability  
Awareness and Inclusion  
Month (JDAIM).

Stop by the Library to peruse our display of "JDAIM Reads" for children and adults!

### **Multi-Cultural/Multi-Racial Jews Lunch and Meet & Greet Sunday, February 11 @ 1:00 pm in Fungler Hall**

Adas Israel is proud to be a community of communities, and we view the diversity of our membership as one aspect of our strength. For this event, we welcome Adas members and families who identify as multi-cultural, multi-racial, and/or from different countries to join us for a lovely afternoon of connecting with one another, eating, schmoozing, and learning about upcoming events at Adas that will celebrate the diversity within our community. With Rabbi Aaron Alexander, and Adas members Blanche Cotlear and Lynn Zuckerman. To register, call 202-362-4433. ❀



## Social Action Team Updates

### Poverty, Homelessness and Housing Team

Adas volunteers not only served a Christmas meal and sang Christmas carols for the women of N Street Village, we also prepared candied yams, green beans, and desserts for the meal since the shelter's kitchen was still under renovation. Given that we have maxed out on our volunteer capacity at N Street and we have many more Adas members who would like to volunteer on Christmas day, we welcome help in finding and organizing a second site. If you would like to help, contact Jamie Butler, [jgb3611@gmail.com](mailto:jgb3611@gmail.com).

### Refugee Response Team

#### Refugee Response Team Seeking Volunteers for Its International Rescue Committee Mentoring Program

Building on our amazing experience co-sponsoring a Syrian family with Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Adas Israel is now partnering with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) on its family mentorship program. For the last six months, Adas members have been assisting five refugee families from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Congo who were recently resettled in our region, and we plan on adding additional mentor groups to the program this year.

Due to the large number of refugee families the IRC is serving, this mentorship program offers these families more support during their initial transition than would otherwise be possible. This includes activities such as teaching refugee families about the metropolitan area education systems, how to maneuver through our grocery stores and public transportation, or any other challenges that may arise. As part of this growing program, we are also beginning to pair young professionals, and other carless individuals, with those with cars, to make this mentorship more accessible for all Adas members. If you are interested in being a part of this or would like more information, please complete the Volunteer Interest Survey on our website at [adasisrael.org/tikkunolam](http://adasisrael.org/tikkunolam).

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## Christmas at N Street Village



To donate non-cash items such as furniture, clothing, and laptops to the IRC, please complete the form at [adasisrael.org/tikkunolam](http://adasisrael.org/tikkunolam). For more information, contact Adas member Alex Levy, [aglevy12@gmail.com](mailto:aglevy12@gmail.com).

## Lev B'Lev Team News

### Lev B'Lev Partners with One America to Promote Interfaith Cooperation

By Michael Sachse

Over the last year, members of the Adas community—organized by Lev B'Lev—have partnered with the One America Movement, a solidarity project of Repair the World committed to healing growing divisions in American society. This partnership is advancing the mission of Lev B'Lev, particularly in creating greater interfaith cooperation and understanding.

During the spring, One America hosted two events in which Adas members took part: a clean-up of a shelter (followed by dinner and discussion) in Southwest DC and a community *iftar* at a Georgetown church. Each was a gathering of diverse groups, including evangelical Christians, Catholics, Muslims, and Jews, and both events offered real opportunity for substantive discussion.

In December, I joined Rabbi Alexander at a different type of One America event: a community meeting organized by One America in Shepherdstown, WV, to discuss the opioid epidemic that has taken hold in that area. We met there with representatives of law enforcement, public health officials, local pastors, and mothers struggling with addiction in their families.

While Shepherdstown is just over an hour's drive from DC, it is at the very heart of the opioid crisis. West Virginia has the highest opioid death rate in the nation, and the communities in the state's panhandle have the highest opioid death rates in the state.

The discussion we were privileged to hear was remarkable. Opioid addiction is a difficult problem. Addiction is pernicious, social services are limited, and there is no end in sight. At the same time, there is reason for hope—the community representatives we met were smart, resolved, and compassionate. And they were heartened to see our interest in helping.

Our goal in attending was both to learn about how this crisis was affecting communities close to Washington and to see if there was anything that faith communities in the DC area could do to help. We believe that there will be, and in 2018, Lev B'Lev will work with One America to find ways for Adas members to support those in need in Shepherdstown.

## Racial Justice Working Group

Adas had the pleasure of hosting the Annual Jewish Multiracial Network's (JMN) *Hanukkah* Party on December 17 showcasing the diversity of our community. More than 30 people attended, multiple *menorahs* were lit, sugary treats were shared, and new friendships were formed. We look forward to partnering with the JMN on future events.

On December 18, several members of the Adas community attended a powerful performance of the play, *On My Mind/In My Heart* at the Edlavitch DCJCC. The piece echoed the struggle and voices of women of color in DC's public housing system. During the open forum talk-back, a lot of feelings were brought up dealing with race relations in our city. Many felt there was little opportunity for blacks and whites to sit down together in the same room to talk about race within the DC metropolitan area. It was clear that many throughout the region are looking into talking about this hard truth. With this in mind, the RJWG has partnered with SURJ DC (Showing Up For Racial Justice) to offer a four-session reading group, Jewish Values, Racial

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## Clergy Corner continued from page 4

times in the form of a challenge that demands of us to exit our comfort zone and push ourselves to overcome our inhibitions. At times they manifest in the shape of a hand held out to us with love and care. And sometimes, if we allow ourselves to trust ourselves they come in the form and shape of a new, innovative or creative thought that we have witnessed for the first time.

In this age of *attack first and ask thoughtful questions later*, let's try to elevate our own awareness to the implications of such speech. Let's take a moment to look, listen, and feel God's postcard urging for dignity. Let's imagine ourselves primarily as blessers rather than cursers. It's what always has made, and always will make, for the sacred community we cultivate here—both within and outside of our walls.

And let's not be afraid to boldly call out—and actively condemn—those who choose to explicitly curse behind the transparent curtain of abusive power. ✨



## 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](http://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. ✨



## Packing Christmas Food at Peoples Church



## Office Closing

**Presidents Day**  
**Monday, February 19**  
Schools/Offices Closed

## tikkunolam continued from page 21

Justice. As white supremacy and anti-Semitism both increase, this study group, co-facilitated by Carol (Shira) Ehrlich and Salina Greene, explores how Jews can maintain a positive Jewish identity as they challenge racism.

For more information or if you are experiencing difficulties with registration, please contact Salina Greene at [SierraYen@aol.com](mailto:SierraYen@aol.com). To register directly, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/jewishvaluesregister>. Future sessions are February 8, March 8, and April 12 🌸



## Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Graduates

**Honored on Shabbat, February 10**

On Saturday, February 10, we will honor the graduating Adas Israel seniors of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.

*Mazal tov* to Luca Becker, son of Andres & Nicole Becker; Jonas and Menachem Drogin, sons of Jack Drogin & Monica Gourovitch; Daniel Ingber, son of Kenneth & Kathy Ingber; Isaac Silber, son of Rick Silber & Debbi Wilgoren; and Daniel Weiss, son of Baruch Weiss & Laura Blumenfeld.

If you have not already confirmed your child's participation, please contact Beryl Saltman at [beryl.saltman@adasisrael.org](mailto:beryl.saltman@adasisrael.org).

We will honor our graduates with an *aliyah* and a gift from the congregation. We are happy to participate in their celebration in this way and extend our sincere good wishes to them, their parents, and their families.

## We Want What You Want continued from page 8

*Shabbat* experiences! Torah study! Social justice! LGBTQ inclusion! Spiritual leadership! A meaningful Jewish life. Radical, right?!

The very things that we want are the things that synagogues offer. And, if I say so myself, the very things Adas does particularly well for both the synagogue's membership writ large and young professionals in particular. Shir Delight is very well attended, and the young professionals Torah study group, *Mimosas & Meimras*, is one of the highlights of my Jewish life. My fellow Millennial Track participants would have done anything for a small portion of the opportunities we have here.

But Adas has a legacy and enduring reputation as an innovator and a visionary. So I also brought home a few thought starters for our community to consider.

First and foremost, having younger members on the Adas board is a beacon to other synagogues that we deserve a seat at the table, so I want to give you incredible kudos for that. I learned that many of my cohort members couldn't get into a board meeting, let alone a seat on the board. I would encourage you to continue inviting younger people into leadership positions here at Adas, and for all of us to encourage other boards across the Jewish spectrum to do the same.

Next, I would offer that based on feedback from my cohort, young Jewish engagement starts with a semantic shift. Instead of talking about engaging millennials at **their** stage of life, I would encourage Adas to talk about engaging ALL generations at EVERY stage of life. And this is where I want to name something: late-20s and 30-something single people with no kids is a relatively new thing. We are a stage of life that hasn't needed programming or special attention. Historically (and very generally speaking) we would have done singles programming until we met someone (probably there), gotten married, and had kids. Then our kids would join the religious school and we'd become Gan parents. But at 36 I've technically aged out of YP @ AI, so, along with my fellow older millennials and an incredibly supportive staff and clergy here at Adas, we're charting this new path.

That leads me to inclusion. Dare I say my vision for radical inclusion. I would encourage Adas to lean into what makes this space special and unique: rabbis, learning, justice, mah jongg all under one roof. But I would also encourage a shift so that these opportunities are actively marketed to people of all ages. My hope is that one day synagogues like Adas won't need separate young professional programming because they are fully integrated into ALL programming. The marketing, messaging, and value proposition may be different for my peer group, but the meat of it—the Jewish content—is valuable to us all.

But probably the biggest lesson I took away from USCJ is this: Programs may bring young Jews to synagogues, but Judaism is what keeps us here. We have a good thing going with Judaism, eh? Trust us with it. Believe that we want what you want: the tools to live fulfilling lives, the friendships and relationships, the ties to our collective past, the hopes for our collective future. We want what you want: to change our communities for the better, to learn *Talmud*, to pray. We want what you want: space to feel valued and validated, to be seen and heard...to be part of this *kehillah*.

Here's what I'll leave you with, inspired by Rabbi Steve Wernick's opening remarks: Don't worry about young people joining Adas. Continue to create meaningful and meaning-filled experiences, invite us to join, trust we'll show up, and ask us to come back. We will, in time. I promise.

My hope is that these reflections will stay with you as you plan for our community's future. Thank you. ✨



## Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship Program

### Come for Lunch and Stay for Friendship

You are invited to the Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship. We meet Monday through Friday at Adas Israel Congregation (Youth Lounge on the third floor) for coffee, tea, snacks, and camaraderie beginning at 10:30 am. Drop in any time after 10:30 am and bring friends. Lunch is served at noon. No need to RSVP; just show up.

Our program features a daily kosher lunch, exercises four days a week, movies on Mondays, live entertainment, and a brief *Shabbat* service on Fridays. We have speakers on health, nutrition, Judaism, elder law, and how to use cell phones, computers, and tablets. An art teacher joins us every second week to encourage creativity. And, most important is the care and feeding of the sweet tooth; we have cake for dessert on Fridays and a monthly ice cream social.

This program is open to all seniors without regard to religion or economic circumstance. We ask those who are able, to pay \$4 for the day (the actual cost of the meal and paper goods is approximately \$10). No senior is turned away; pay what you are able (\$4 or less).

The program, sponsored jointly by the Edlavitch DCJCC and Adas Israel Congregation, seeks to provide nutritious kosher lunches; activities to keep the mind and body active; a place to meet old friends and make new ones; create a strong, active, and thriving senior community; and help seniors live healthy, independent lives.

We hope you will join us and we look forward to meeting you.

The Fellowship has one full-time employee, Kim Cauthen, Director of Senior Adult Programs at the DCJCC. You can contact her for additional information at 202-777-3243 or [seniors@edcjcc.org](mailto:seniors@edcjcc.org). ✨



# Ma Tou: Gila Efrati and David Diamond

## HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

**The two of you are staples in the Estelle & Melvin Religious School. How did you begin teaching in a religious school setting, what brought you to Adas, and how long have you been teaching here?**

**Gila:** I visited my family in the Washington area in November 2000, when I was between jobs in Israel. While I was visiting I was offered a job at Adas after another teacher had left to return to Israel. I went back to Israel for three and a half weeks, packed up my apartment, and came back to the U.S. I started teaching on December 3, 2000.

**David:** I've been teaching Hebrew school since my senior year of college. I came to Adas 20 years ago to teach in the high school program and later began teaching in the lower grades also.

**During the past few years, you and Rabbi Rosenbaum have completely re-created our Hebrew curriculum. What inspired you to make these changes? What does the curriculum look like now? Do you have any tips or tricks that you can share to help people learn Hebrew?**

**Gila and David:** We had been teaching sixth grade at Adas for quite a few years and were looking for a new challenge. When we were teaching, we often found it difficult to meet the needs of all Hebrew levels within our classrooms. We discussed this with Kerrith, and she proposed that we pull students into small groups to give them more individualized instruction in Hebrew reading. We created goals and objectives for each grade level from kindergarten through sixth grade and, after assessment and meeting with all of the students, we created Hebrew groups with the help of Kerrith and Pam. The overall goal for Adas students is to read Hebrew prayers and other texts with accuracy and fluency. We support the teachers in grades 3–6 in their Hebrew instruction by sharing goals and objectives, preparing materials, and restructuring Hebrew groups to best meet the needs of the students.

Hebrew is like any language; in order to learn it, you must practice every day. This includes listening to Hebrew spoken by others and repeating the words. To master Hebrew reading you must first learn the letter and vowel sounds, decode, and move toward fluency. Practice, practice, practice...and practice...

**When you're not teaching at Adas, what do you love to do?**

**Gila:** I like to listen to music, go to live concerts, practice my photography, and visit my family in Israel.

**David:** My favorite thing to do is to spend time with my kids and grandkids, particularly on Jewish holidays and *Shabbes*.



**What are some of your favorite teaching moments over your years at Adas?**

**Gila:** I remember how we worked with the sixth graders to sell hot chocolate and bagels to raise money six or seven years ago to send to Beit Oren in northern Israel, which had suffered damage from forest fires. The best moment at the end of our first year of pulling small Hebrew groups was when students shared with us how much they loved learning in a small-group environment. Hearing students make connections between the Hebrew curriculum and the Judaics curriculum was very satisfying.

**David:** Some of my favorite memories of teaching at Adas are of the Sixth Grade Model *Seder*, the students' sharing their sixth-grade family research projects, and getting to know the parents and families of the students I was teaching.

**We get to celebrate Purim in February! What is your favorite Purim song that you sing on Sunday mornings, and what is your ultimate hamentashen filling?**

**Gila:** I love *hamentashen* filled with the traditional poppy seed filling. No need for any change in *hamentashen* fillings!

**David:** My favorite *hamentashen* fillings are prune and apricot. I really used to enjoy singing all of the *Purim* songs with the *Vav* students.

**What are two of your favorite Hebrew words, and what do they mean?**

**Gila:** My favorite Hebrew words are *shalom* and Israel. *Shalom*, as you know, means hi, bye, and peace. Israel, of course, means Israel!

**David:** My two favorite words or phrases in Hebrew are *l'hizdangef* and *tearti l'atzmi*. *L'hizdangef* comes from the name of Tel Aviv's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff. A well-known street in Tel Aviv is named after him. *L'hizdangef* means to stroll on Dizengoff Street. *Tearti l'atzmi* is for me a typical Hebrew idiom. It literally means "I described to myself," but the meaning is "I figured it out." 🌟

## Purim continued from page 3

recipients. The *mitzvah* of *mishloach manot* is based on the verse in the *Megillah* instructing us to “send portions one to another” (9:22). Some people bake *hamentashen* and other goodies, while others send food packages through their synagogue. Use this opportunity to spread *Purim* cheer to those who might not otherwise receive such gifts. Consider bringing some brightly decorated baskets to seniors, the homebound, or newcomers.

### Matanot L'evyonim

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

### Seudat Purim

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

**Chag Purim Sameach!!**



## Concerned about Sensory Overload on Purim?

Costumes, *groggers*, and crowds can be overwhelming! If you need a timeout or to catch your breath, please go to our low sensory space in room 218 on the second floor, which will be available during the Carnival, 9:15 am–12:15 pm on Sunday (Feb. 25), and 5:30–10:30 pm on *Erev Purim*, Wednesday (Feb. 28). The room will be unlocked but will not be staffed, so children must be accompanied by adults. Adults seeking quiet are welcome on their own. Alternately, you are welcome to join us for a (somewhat!) quieter *Megillah* reading on Thursday, March 1 (*Purim*) at 7:15 am *minyan* in the Biran Bet Midrash, where the Boogie of Haman happens at a lower volume. Please e-mail [inclusion@adasisrael.org](mailto:inclusion@adasisrael.org) to communicate any accessibility issues in advance.

You Are Invited to . . .

## The First Night Community Seder Passover 2018/5778 • Saturday, March 31



Join us for our annual, festive community Passover *seder* at Adas Israel, with delicious food, thought-provoking discussion, and joyful song. The Passover *seder* is one of the Jewish peoples' most treasured traditions. Few rituals have survived so long and remained so true to their original form.

Using rich symbolism, role-playing, and all of the senses, the *seder* has warmly transmitted the values of human dignity, liberty, and the search for higher meaning to every society it has reached. To

this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover *seder*, again and again, year after year.

And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this beautiful and meaningful tradition with you and your family this year at Adas.

## 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](mailto: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.



# synagoguecontributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

## Anna & Joseph Blumenthal Video Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Eleanor B. Wolpe** by Rona & Joseph Katz.

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*In Honor Of:* **Sonya Gichner's** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by Gloria Buckberg, Sue Ducat & Stan Cohen. **Alice Burton** by Edward & Ruth Cogen. **Sarah Grebow** by Pamela Ehrenberg. **Joy Midman** by Patricia Friedman. **Ann Louise Cowan** by Rachel Cowan Jacobs. **Ari Strauss** by Susan & Morris Klein. **Elias Stahl & Kristen Carvalho** by Robert Moss. **Grant Epstein** by UIP Companies, LLC. **Amb. John Phillips & Linda Douglass** by Hon. Henry Waxman & Janet Waxman.

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*In Honor Of:* **Cantor Brown** by Mark Werfel.

*In Appreciation Of:* Beauty, inspiration, enrichment & sheer enjoyment **Cantor Brown** has brought to Adas Israel by Dr. William &

Vivienne Stark.

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*In Honor Of:* **Elliot Bramson** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by James & Nanci Bramson. Our aliyah by Taylor Cusack & Brendan Cusack.

## Daily Minyan Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Samuel Kline & Betty Kline** by David Kline. **Carlotta Schiffres** by Manuel Schiffres.

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*In Honor Of:* **Minna Kaufman** at *Hanukah* time by Stephen Klatsky & Dale Kaufman.

*In Honor Of & With Heartfelt Thanks To:* **Cantor Brown & Rabbi Rosenbaum** & the wonderful **Adas team** who make the Dan Kaufman Latke Party & singalong a joyous annual celebration by Dale Kaufman.

*In Honor Of & With Thanks To:* **Rae Grad & Manny Schiffres** by Stephen Klatsky & Dale Kaufman.

## Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund

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*With Great Appreciation For:* All of **David Polonsky's** support by Alan & Nancy Bubes.

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## Fund for the Future

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*In Honor Of:* **Courtney Pine's** accomplishments as a *bat mitzvah*, Birth of **Sandy & Lydia Parnes's** grandson, **Miles** by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

*In Memory Of:* **Jeffrey Dunn** by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

## Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

*With Great Appreciation For:* Jewish Mindfulness Center & **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Kit Turen.

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*In Honor Of:* Our *aliyah* for the naming of our daughter **Maia Simha** by Rachel & Martin Kessler. "**Gamma**" **Barbara Winnik** by Juliana Yavinsky's other grandparents, Merrill & Cynthia Yavinsky.

*In Support Of:* Adas Israel's mission by R. Soman.

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& Mindy Saraco. **Jeffrey H. Dunn** by Bonnie Dunn. **Martin Schwat** by Rob & Rachel Rubin.

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*In Memory Of:* **Victor Siegel, Esther Soled Siegel, Sylvia Kalmekoff Siegel, Fannie Siegel, Joseph Siegel, Max Kalmekoff, Rose Kalmekoff, Elsie Kalmekoff**, all by Margie Siegel.

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*In Honor Of:* **Judy Heumann's** birthday by Stuart & Jamie Butler.

*In Memory Of:* **Josef Ducat & Ellen Ducat** by Stan Cohen & Sue Ducat. **Helen Surosky** by Shelley Kossak. **Beatrice & Leonard Toiv** by Helene Toiv.

### **Staff Gift Fund**

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*In Honor Of:* Birth of **Mark Yecies & Ellen Roche's** new grandson, **Alec Desh** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

*In Memory Of:* **Ida Cohen** by Shirley Cohen.

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**Youth Activities Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Bernard "Bernie" Meyer** by James & Lisa Meyer.

## **Life Cycle** continued from page 13

### **Bereavement Committee**

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

### **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](mailto:mikvah@adasisrael.org). For more information, visit [adasisrael.org/mikvah](http://adasisrael.org/mikvah). ♣





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TRADITION &  
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Tuesday, February 27, at noon