Adas students explore the old city in Jerusalem last summer
From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT

Our volunteers are everywhere!

Adas Israel Congregation would be a much different place, a far less meaningful place, without the members who share their time and expertise to shape who we are. Every day of the week people volunteer in significant ways that make us better. We’re overwhelmingly grateful for this help, but sometimes these efforts are easy to overlook, so I want to express the congregation’s thanks to each and every person who pitches in.

Our volunteers are everywhere! They’re helping you with your purchases in the Sisterhood Gift Shop; leading a morning or evening minyan, or a Shabbat service; in the kitchen baking challah with the Hesed Committee; at a newly bereaved member’s home helping to arrange a funeral; helping in the Gan—and I’ve barely scratched the surface.

I was filled with awe recently as I sat in on a task force meeting of members of the House & Grounds, Mikvah, and Religious Practices committees, studying the plans for our mikvah accessibility renovation and making design recommendations. Every member of this group approached the task with same level of curiosity, seriousness, and dedication they would spend on a project in their own homes.

Likewise at a Budget Committee meeting I attended in early March. These volunteers have particular expertise and interest in preserving the sound financial footing of Adas Israel and protecting what’s most important to us. They went through every line of a 13-page, very detailed budget proposal for 2018–2019 (presented in some kind of microscopic font, I’d like to add), questioning revenue and expense projections, so the committee can bring to the Board of Directors and the general membership a balanced budget that reflects our values.

You see pictures of our volunteers in every issue of the Chronicle, engaged in many activities, including cooking and serving breakfast and lunch at SOME, one of our Social Action partners. I’ve had the honor of participating. The joy this experience brings both guests and volunteers is palpable. It’s a gift to watch the interaction of our members with people we wouldn’t likely meet otherwise. It’s particularly moving when parents bring their children so they can participate in this experience together as a family.

It’s not practical for me to name every person who participates at Adas Israel. I’d surely omit quite a few and I’d never forgive myself, and neither would the people I neglected. Happily, we’ve become aware of National Volunteer Week, which this year is celebrated the week of April 15–21. At the Shabbat morning service on April 21 in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, we’ll honor everyone who devotes time to enhancing the experience we all have at Adas Israel.

If you give us your time in any way at all please join us that day. If you’re a member of a committee or a team or a task force; if you read Torah or chant haftarah; if you ever serve as a greeter or an usher for anything we do, help make a minyan here or at a shiva house, call to tell us that someone you know needs help, share your insights in a class, and so many other ways our volunteers help us—heck, if you seek out and talk to someone you don’t know at kiddush, you’re making Adas Israel better. Please come to our service on the 21st.

We’re immensely grateful that these volunteers are willing to help us so thoughtfully. It will be our honor to thank you officially!

Join us Saturday, April 21, to Honor Our Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is celebrated April 15–22. Join us when we celebrate and honor our Adas volunteers on Shabbat morning, Saturday, April 21. An important aspect of being a part of our community is participation, and we wouldn’t be able to offer the breadth of services, programs, learning opportunities, etc., without our amazing lay leaders and volunteers. From greeting on Shabbat mornings, cooking and delivering meals, calling people to let them know we are thinking of them, organizing social action projects, leading services, coordinating events, and many more. We simply would not be the synagogue we are without the help, guidance, and leadership of our volunteers. Please join us for a special aliyah on Saturday morning during the Torah service, and then the celebrations continue at kiddush following services.
The days between Passover and Shavuot, the counting of the Omer, are kind of like a long off-ramp to the exit marked: Matan Torah, the giving of Torah. In anticipation of this period, we have taken some time together to reflect on the growing Torah of our community. In other words, what do our shared values look like when distilled and articulated on one page? Here’s our attempt at an Adas Matan Torah/Revelation of Torah, if you will. We look forward to furthering this conversation with each and every one of you.

At Adas Israel Congregation we primarily measure our increasing growth, not by how many people walk through our doors or join as members, but by the capacity and openness of the hearts that are present. Our communal heart has six essential and sacred chambers which regularly obligate us (in alphabetical order):

1) **Hesed**—Lovingkindness
   Our obligation to care for each and every member of our community, at each and any moment of life and death. Tangibly providing love and support is a non-negotiable value in our practice of religious Judaism.

2) **Israel**
   Our obligation to Israel is threefold. We share a love and longing for our ancestral homeland, Eretz Yisra’el, the Land of Israel. We prioritize our special relationship with Am Yisra’el—the worldwide community of Jews that is as diverse as creation itself. And, of course, we support a secure and peaceful present and future for perhaps the greatest modern miracle for our people, Medinat Yisra’el, the State of Israel.

3) **Limmud Torah**—Text Study
   Our obligation to deeply explore the words and ideas of our rich, textual tradition—eliciting and understanding the particular and universal core values and practices that animate everything we do. We are the white spaces between the letters, and also the letters themselves.

4) **Tefillah**—Prayer
   Our obligation to pray as if our lives depend on it—using ancient liturgy and soulful music as an essential, but also dynamic and evolving framework. And we simultaneously live and work, fiercely, as if our prayers won’t be heard or answered. The siddur is our roadmap, our hearts point us in the direction we need to go.

5) **Tzedek**—Justice
   Our obligation to expand and reimagine the very definition of the “WE” it is to whom we are responsible. Tzedek asks us to become a living sanctuary for the marginalized, persecuted, forgotten, and invisible.

6) **Z’manim**—Sacred Calendar
   Our obligation to allow the contours of the secular year be guided by our holy times (chaggim) and their rituals. In many ways, the holidays are the purest (and most fun) way in which we celebrate the particularism of our religious lives, and give them added meaning.

Now it’s your turn. What’s your Torah? What are your core Jewish values? What would be revealed at your Mount Sinai moment? How does it fit into this paradigm?
Jerusalem this past February, David was the sole recipient of the Fellow in Synagogue Administration (FSA) certification from the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE).

The FSA is given to a very small number of executive directors who have distinguished themselves in the field and have completed a comprehensive series of professional requirements. It is the only certification that exists for executive directors and is rarely issued.

As we have all seen, and over his years at Adas, David has invested an enormous amount of himself, professionally and personally, into our Adas Israel community, and we have all benefited tremendously from his many contributions. Now, following years of hard work, careful study, and spirited professional immersion, David joins this very select and accomplished group of Fellows in Synagogue Administration and is recognized by his colleagues as an integral standard bearer in the profession.

According to Davis in an August 2017 NPR interview, “If you spend five minutes with your worst enemy—it doesn’t have to be about race, it could be about anything . . . you will find that you both have something in common. As you build upon those commonalities, you’re forming a relationship and as you build about that relationship, you’re forming a friendship. That’s what would happen. I didn’t convert anybody. They saw the light and converted themselves.”

At this post-kiddush event, learn more about the relationship-building strategies Davis has used (including the role of music and meals), the dramatic stories of his encounters, and the lessons we can learn from them as we strive through Lev B’Lev to eradicate hate and replace it with love and kindness. Lev B’Lev is a collaboration of the Hesed and Social Action committees.

Daryl Davis, an award-winning African American musician, actor, and bandleader, who has devoted a significant portion of his life trying to understand why racists hate him when they don’t even know him, will speak at Adas as part of our Lev B’Lev speaker series on May 5 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. In pursuing this understanding, he has met with and formed relationships with members of the Ku Klux Klan, many of whom ultimately gave up their robes and hoods and rejected the Klan and its racism. We are delighted that he’s accepted our invitation to share his wisdom with our congregation and the community.

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TO OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DAVID POLONSKY

We wish a heartfelt mazal tov and yasher koach to our extraordinary and deeply committed Executive Director, David Polonsky, on achieving a significant milestone on his journey as a synagogue professional. At a recent conference of North American synagogue executive directors in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem this past February, David was the sole recipient of the Fellow in Synagogue Administration (FSA) certification from the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE).

The FSA is given to a very small number of executive directors who have distinguished themselves in the field and have completed a comprehensive series of professional requirements. It is the only certification that exists for executive directors and is rarely issued. As we have all seen, and over his years at Adas, David has invested an enormous amount of himself, professionally and personally, into our Adas Israel community, and we have all benefited tremendously from his many contributions. Now, following years of hard work, careful study, and spirited professional immersion, David joins this very select and accomplished group of Fellows in Synagogue Administration and is recognized by his colleagues as an integral standard bearer in the profession.

Every six years or so, the annual NAASE conference leaves North America, and is held in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, enabling synagogue administrators across the U.S. and Canada to experience modern Israel, interact with Israeli professionals from a variety of relevant fields, and engage with Masorti (Conservative movement in Israel) kehillot and leadership. David received his certification at the closing ceremony of this year’s conference in Jerusalem. He also proudly serves as a member of the Board of Governors of NAASE.

We thank David for his inspiring commitment to his work and field, and we are grateful to be the beneficiaries of his leadership, creativity, talent, and heartfelt commitment to Adas Israel and its many community members.
On Sunday April 15, Adas Israel Congregation will honor the memory of Captain Gustav Schroeder of Germany. Gustav Schroeder was captain on the fateful voyage 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 the Cuban and the 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 to force the British authorities to take some action.

A solution was found, finally, and the passengers were allowed to disembark in Antwerp, after Belgium, Great Britain, and France had come to an agreement 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, all of its Jewish passengers would have certainly ended up in Nazi concentration camps. It was 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 Nazi death trap. On March 11, 1993, Yad Vashem posthumously recognized Captain Gustav Schroeder as Righteous Among the Nations (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.
SCENES FROM A
WILD PURIM @ ADAS!

THE WILD
PURIM @ ADAS 5778
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. Register for lectures or classes online or by calling Courtney Tisch, 202-362-4433, ext. 125.

2017/2018 MENDELSON SHABBAT SCHOLAR IN DECEMBER:
Rabbi Dr. Noah Bickart  Post-Kiddush Halakha Class
SATURDAY, APRIL 21 @ 1:00 PM
Join us as our April Mendelson Shabbat Scholar, Rabbi Dr. Noah Bickart, guest teaches this month’s text-based class, after kiddush, using halakhah (Jewish life and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic. Rabbi Bickart is an accomplished theologian and author currently working at Yale University as a Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Fellow in the Program of Judaic Studies.

ONGOING LEARNING:

The Text 2.0: In-Depth Halakhah (Jewish Law)
with Rabbi Aaron Alexander
TUESDAY, 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.

Boker Or Shabbat Study
SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM
APRIL 7, No Boker Or due to Passover. APRIL 14, Rabbi Aaron Alexander. APRIL 21, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt. APRIL 28, Rabbi Herb Schwartz. Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.
When you think of Israel, a host of images and thoughts no doubt are part of your knee-jerk response: politics, tension, borders, security, water, Jerusalem, settlements, Palestinians, attacks, rockets, many seemingly interminable issues and problems that divide American Jews and many heartwarming connections that also tie us to this place. What we probably don’t think about is poverty, a serious and significant problem in Israel that is beyond politics, a problem that seems to have escaped our attention as the diurnal news cycle of the seemingly unsolvable unfolds.

Did you know that one-third of all Israeli children live in poverty, that about a fifth of all family units live in poverty? These facts are not secret. And while you may be more aware of Israeli cuisine or its start-up nation technological entrepreneurship, this poverty persists. It is a significant embarrassment and shortfall for Israel.

The major groups living in poverty are the very religious (Haredi) Jews and Israeli Arabs, and there are relatively well-defined underlying problems to this poverty:

• The preference of religious Jewish men to study Torah rather than engaging in income producing work;
• the absence of job opportunities for Israeli Arab women to work from their homes or near their homes;
• the rapid growth of the population relative to the expansion of the economy with paying jobs; and
• the growing automation of many formerly unskilled or semi-skilled jobs

Essentially, there are two economies in Israel, the very Western, high-tech, rapidly expanding one, the one whose breakthroughs and successes you hear about, and the permanent underclass living in poverty, dependent on private philanthropy and the diminishing support of the Israeli welfare state (diminishing as the Israeli government turns more right and shrinks social welfare programs), the one you rarely hear about whose future is dim. There are very deep religious questions in play here, deep troubling questions for us as American Jews:

• How can a Jewish state continue to neglect the poor among its citizens?
• How is this consistent with Jewish values?
• How can Israel allow its children to grow up malnourished and deprived?
• What is our responsibility as American Jews to help ameliorate poverty in Israel?

If this were a local problem, our Hesed and Social Justice committees would be all over it, but their missions are community-based, leaving a void for us as American Jews and Adas members to help repair this injustice. Absent a local grassroots effort to address poverty in Israel, we still are empowered and our need for tzedakah here is no less critical despite our distance from the problem.

Here’s what you can do. If you want to help be part of the effort to ameliorate poverty in Israel, here are some established charitable organizations that target this problem and would welcome your charitable donation:

• Masorti, the Conservative Movement in Israel, is committed to a pluralistic, egalitarian, and democratic vision of Zionism. It is committed to seeing that all Israelis have the basics of a good life, enough food, and adequate clothing and shelter.
• Charities in Israel that provide direct aid to Israeli families that do not have enough food include Yad Ezra V’Shulamit and CHMOL.
• Organizations that provide medical care for impoverished Israeli children with serious medical problems includes Rachashei Lev Cancer Center and Count Me In.
• Jewish National Fund, a nonprofit organization founded in 1901. Over the past 113 years, JNF has evolved into a global environmental leader by planting more than 250 million trees, building over 240 reservoirs and dams, developing over 250,000 acres of land, creating more than 2,000 parks, providing the infrastructure for over 1,000 communities, and connecting thousands of children and young adults to Israel and their heritage.
Yom HaZikaron
On this Memorial Day, the fourth of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar, we commemorate the soldiers who have fallen fighting for Israel's independence and defending its security. In Israel, Yom HaZikaron is marked with sirens that alert people to stop all activity and honor the fallen. This holiday's placement the day before Israel Independence Day is intentional: the soldiers who gave their lives were directly responsible for the existence of Israel as an independent state. In this way, a day of solemn commemoration can be followed by joyous celebration and song. This year Yom HaZikaron begins on Tuesday, April 17, at sundown and is observed on Wednesday, April 18.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)
The anniversary of the modern State of Israel is a wonderful milestone for the State and for the Jewish people. This modern miracle is unparalleled in history. Yom Ha'Atzmaut is celebrated this year on Thursday, April 19. Please join us for morning and evening minyan, on Wednesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 19, for meaningful services and blessings to honor Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Stay Tuned for more information on learning opportunities, a Yom HaZikaron vigil, and a celebratory Israeli breakfast in honor of Israel.

SAVE THE DATE
Special Musical Event
Visions of Israel
A Celebration of Culture and Creativity
JUNE 3 @ 7PM

Our spring concert will celebrate Israel's 70th birthday! We celebrate the miracle of Israel by immersing ourselves in Israeli cultural arts. Israeli headliners will be joined by Theater J and other top DC community talent, along with Cantor Arianne Brown, Adas Israel's Flash Choir, and the young voices of Kolot for an engaging cultural experience, followed by a dessert reception!

As part of a featured song, we will display a montage of our Adas families in Israel. Please submit a family photo to emma.rosenthal@adasisrael.org so we can include you!

Join us for the fifth annual JTS Evening of Learning co-sponsored by Adas Israel

The Land of Israel: "Land of Longing, Land of Promise"
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018 5:00–9:00 PM

Congregation B'nai Tzedek
10621 S. Glen Road,
Potomac, Maryland

Please contact Tani Schwartz-Herman at 212-678-8996 or tanischwartz@jtsa.edu for additional information.

Each day, for the 49 days from the second night of *Pesach* to the night before *Shavuot*, we count the *omer* (a measure of barley). An agricultural ritual in Biblical times, the counting of the *omer* evolved into a liturgical practice marking the Israelites’ spiritual preparation as they journeyed from bondage in Egypt to revelation at Mount Sinai. The Kabbalists focused on the Counting of the *Omer* as a time to reflect on how to lead an ethical life, dividing the 49 days into seven weeks defined by specific spiritual qualities. In recent years, the Counting of the *Omer* has been embraced as a Jewish mindfulness practice. Rabbi Yael Levy, author of *Journey through the Wilderness. A Mindfulness Approach to the Ancient Jewish Practice of Counting the Omer*, explains, “The counting helps us to pay attention to the movement of our lives . . . the big changes, all the yearnings, strivings, disappointments, hopes, and fears.” We hope our JMCW offerings this month help each of us “to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (*Psalms* 90:12).

**ONGOING OFFERINGS**

Weekly JMCW meditation and yoga classes offer a home to those who wish to explore embodied spirituality. Our yoga program offers an array of practices that seek to awaken and stimulate the senses through full mind/body exploration. Classes often draw on *Mussar*, *Kabbalah*, and the wisdom of Jewish thinkers. Our meditation program offers participants an opportunity to come together for guided teachings, a wide variety of meditation techniques, and silent community sits.

**Morning Awakening Restorative Yoga**
**TUESDAYS @ 10:00–11:15 AM**
This is a restorative/yin yoga practice for all levels, led by Alesandra Zsiba.

**Vinyasa Lunar Flow**
**WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30–7:20 PM**
A slow-paced asana practice for all levels, led by a rotating roster of JMCW faculty.

**Weekly Meditation Sit**
**WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30–8:30 PM**
A community sit that integrates meditation techniques with guided teachings, led by a rotating roster of JMCW faculty.

**Vinyasa Solar Flow**
**SUNDAYS @ 11AM–12:15 PM**
A fast-paced, heat building practice for all levels, led by Sarah Levant.

"Teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom"
—*Psalms* 90:12

adasisrael.org/jmcw
UPCOMING JMCW SERVICES, PROGRAMS, & WORKSHOPS

Return Again to Shabbat
with Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander & The Return Again Band
FRIDAY, APRIL 13 @ 6:30 PM
This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! Join us for a reflective journey into the power of Shabbat. The evening features seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song. A festive Israeli tapas-style feast follows. *Please register for dinner on the Adas JMCW web page.

Rosh Chodesh—Celebrating the New Moon
TUESDAY, APRIL 17 @ 7-8:30 PM
Women of all ages are invited to come together for a nourishing evening of Jewish yoga and mindfulness practice. Jewish tradition teaches that our bodies are deeply in sync with the lunar cycle, and Rosh Chodesh calls us to listen to these timeless, embodied rhythms. Following the asana practice, those who wish may stay for a discussion circle inspired by At the Well. The mikvah will also be open for immersion post practice. *Please register on the JMCW Adas web page. This ongoing monthly offering is co-sponsored by the Adas Mikvah.

Kabbalah & Yoga Workshop Series with Rabbi Ben Shalva
SUNDAYS: APRIL 22, 29, & MAY 6 @ 11 AM
Rabbi Ben Shalva returns to JMCW this spring with his signature Kabbalah & Yoga workshop! This three-part series incorporates the wisdom of Kabbalah with the practice of yoga. Join us and experience first-hand the exhilarating fusion of ancient Jewish mysticism with ancient yogic practice. When harnessed, yoga can be a transformative vehicle for understanding the deep wisdoms embedded in Kabbalah. *Please register for this special workshop series on the JMCW Adas page.

JMCW RECOMMENDS...

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

Explore the Adas Library for many other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

For registrations, updates, and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page, adasisrael.org/jmcw or the JMCW Facebook Group. Please direct any questions to: Alesandra.Zsiba@adasisrael.org.
Last Pesach my family and I packed our car full of the Passover essentials—food, dishes, a microwave, a coffee pot, a big cooler, and the dog—and went on an epic road trip. It included seven states, two sederim (in addition to many more “festive meals”), 10 different stops to see friends and family, two birthdays, and one case of food poisoning. It was the first, and probably last, time we celebrated in this manner, but all in all it lived up to the idea of an “unforgettable journey” in all senses of the term.

People asked what could have inspired such an idea—some out of interest, some out of horror—but the truth is, it didn’t seem like such a hard decision for us. To me, the work of planning a road trip around chaggim, supermarkets that would carry the kind of food we needed to restock supplies, and some creative packing felt no less daunting than preparing our house and had the added benefit of seeing many loved ones along the way. Plus, the idea of being on the road with our belongings had an idealized appeal for me.

Of course DC is not Egypt, and our range of snacks far surpassed matzah, yet I took every opportunity, from the obvious to the absurd, to make the connection for our kids. A year later they seem to have forgotten that silly story I told as we crossed the GW Bridge (ask me about it sometime; it’s a good one!) and the song I really wanted them to learn, but they remember every single person we saw on that trip and have really important family memories to store away.

So this year, whatever your Pesach plans are, whether they are home, away, or somewhere in between, I wish you the blessings of journeying, encountering others, and creating memories. Chag Sameach!

SPOTLIGHT: MUSIC

We are so fortunate that our Tefilah/Music educators are Gavri Tov Yares and Raviv Brooks. Gavri has toured, performed, and taught in America, Europe, and the Middle East. He and his brother perform as the “Brothers Yaris.” Gavri currently teaches music at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, where he created the music program for the lower school.

Raviv has been playing music for most of his life, notably as a drummer in a band starting in middle school. He is a longtime early childhood educator and Shabbat Sing/Shabbat minyan leader at Ohr Kodesh.

The combined passion of these two musicians for creating meaningful and exciting musical experiences for children has brought new depth to our Shacharit Live service for Pre-K–Grade 2 and our Shacharit Services for Third–Fourth and Fifth–Sixth graders.
— Pamela Gorin, Assistant Director
As spring arrives, the Jewish calendar provides us a few unique moments to examine our lives and prepare for the changing seasons. Pesach, or Chag HaAviv (the Spring Holiday) as it is called in the Torah, is one of the most exciting times of the Jewish year: it is our opportunity to retell the transformational story of the Jewish people as we traveled from oppression to freedom.

Although we encounter this narrative at various points during the year—in daily prayers, Torah portions, blessings, and texts—this is a prime opportunity to make the words on the page come alive. Not unlike the children of Israel walking through the split sea, our youth participated in an unprecedented call to action and took to the streets of Washington, DC, for the “March for Our Lives,” walking a path previously thought to be impossible. Joining countless souls across the country, led by our teens, we walked the path to a promising future. Before the march, we gathered together with teenagers from all over to welcome Shabbat together. Between spending time, praying, and learning together, the teenagers were ready to take action. We are awed yet unsurprised by the resounding call of our students and children, by their vision and drive to act, and we look forward to walking together, and retelling the story of our journey for years to come.

—Sarah Attermann & Danny Weininger

It’s April and Pesach is here. The Gan works hard every year to get ready for this special holiday. We learn the story of Pesach, sing songs—both traditional and non-traditional, cook, practice rituals, and, in dramatic fashion, burnhametz in the Adas parking lot. Hazzan Goldsmith leads us in prayer and song as we toss our leavened products into a fire prepared by our maintenance staff. This visual reminder is important for our students, as experiential learning is key for children.

While the Gan has added classes and is mostly full, we do have a few spots available. If you are interested in the 2018–2019 school year, please see the website for up-to-date information. Camp registration is also open. Information is on the Gan page at the Adas website, adasisrael.org/gan.
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**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES:** Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services.

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

**Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM):** Every Shabbat morning. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of a full P’sukei D’zimrah (introductory Psalms), Shacharit, and a d’var Torah. For more information, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

**Havurah Service:** Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion, and a d’var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org.

**Sisterhood:** Mah Jongg

**Baking Schlissel**

**Sisterhood Sewing Circle**

**Restorative Yoga**

**JTS Evening of Learning (offsite)**

**Ben Shalva Workshop**

**The Text 2.0: Advanced Halakhah**

**Foundation for Jewish Studies**
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**PESACH DAY 7**
- 9:15 am: Pesach Combined Smith & TEM Service
- 12:00 pm: Pesach Kiddush
- 6:00 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Cantor Brown

**PESACH DAY 8**
- 9:15 am: Pesach Service/Yizkor; D’var Torah by Rabbi Alexander
- 9:30 am: TEM Service/Yizkor
- 11:00 am: Kids’ Pesach Service
- 12:00 am: Community Pesach Kiddush Luncheon

**Havurah Service:**
- portion, and a d’var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org.

**Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM):**
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**Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah,**
- Every Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with prayer, and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion. A kiddush follows the service. For 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).

**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).
POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Adas Israel & the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) Partner to Fight Affordable Housing Crisis in the District

The statistics are shocking! Thousands of families and individuals in the District are homeless, and thousands more are at imminent risk of homelessness. Families are tripled-up and sleep in vans, and children are sleeping on bare floors in strangers’ homes. Many regularly apply for affordable housing, but there aren’t enough units. One in six residents—about 110,000 people—cannot afford unsubsidized housing, even when fully employed. Thousands of households are paying more than half their incomes for rent and must decide every month whether to pay for rent, utilities, or medicine.

The answer to this challenge is to develop more housing that is affordable to extremely low-income District residents. The biggest piece of that puzzle is a funding tool known as the Housing Production Trust Fund. The Trust Fund, administered by the DC Department of Housing and Community Development, awards both grants and loans to for-profit and nonprofit developers for improvement and development of affordable housing, including, for example, to purchase land or buildings, pay architectural fees, or cover the actual construction of affordable housing units.

Adas Israel is partnering with the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) to advocate for a $20 million minimum increase in the amount of the Trust Fund. This month, we attend and provide testimony to the D.C. Council at the Committee on Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization’s budget oversight hearing on Friday Apr. 13 at 11:00 a.m. There is still time to join us at the D.C. Council this month or at future events addressing the District’s affordable housing crisis. Please contact Beth Simon (bethdanisasimon@gmail.com) for more information or to join our efforts.

Sukkot in Spring Set for Sunday, April 29

Morning Shift: 9:30 am–1:00 pm
10–15 people needed

Afternoon Shift: 12:30–4:00 pm
10–15 people needed

During this year’s Yachad Sukkot in Spring event, Adas Israel’s team of incredible volunteers will again join area synagogues and other Jewish groups to tackle home repairs that will transform lives—repairs ranging from painting, yard work, cabinet repair, and flooring to outside wall plumbing and tiling.

No special skills are needed, just a desire to make a difference (and tools, if you have them!). Volunteers ages 14+ are welcome, though teens will need adult supervision.

Don’t miss your chance to help a family in our community. Register for Sukkot in Spring today at adasism.org/tikkunolam!

REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAM NEWS

New Opportunities to Mentor Recently Arrived Refugee Families

The Adas Israel Refugee Response Team has been partnering with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Silver Spring to mentor newly settled families, and new teams are forming to assist even more refugees. The IRC has an ongoing training program for new volunteer mentors, and Adas will continue to recruit interested members to join this effort. Moving to a new place is always challenging and language/cultural barriers, along with no or minimal family support, make this transition even more difficult. Mentors help ease this transition by offering friendship, tutoring, and assistance with job searches, transportation support, and other services as they come up.

This is an incredible opportunity to work with other Adas members to have a genuine impact on refugees’ lives. So far, Adas
has mentored five refugee families from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Congo. In order to create a dependable support system for these families, the IRC model asks volunteers to commit to six months of mentorship. Working in teams of two to five people, someone from the team is expected to visit the family every week (which means one or two individual visits per month depending on the size of the team). If you’re interested in being a part of this rewarding and important work or would like more information, please contact Alex Levy, aglevy13@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed to Help with Cultural Orientations for Recently Settled Refugees

Want to spend a little time with refugee children? Lutheran Social Services (LSS), which runs cultural orientations for the refugee families it resettles, needs people to volunteer as babysitters during these orientations in Hyattsville, MD. Volunteers spend time with the children in a playroom located next to the orientation room. Adults are needed to interact/play with the children and make a small donation toward a pizza lunch.

This is an incredibly valuable way to assist the refugee community in our area. The orientations are from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and run various dates. To hear about our experiences volunteering, e-mail Adas members Nancy Cutler (nancy.rosen@gmail.com) or Allison Turner (allisonztturner@gmail.com). To get involved, please e-mail Mira Mendick (mendickm@lssnca.org), the Community Resource Coordinator, Refugee & Immigrant Services for LSS.

INCLUSION UPDATE

February was Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month. Adas member Sara Vogler gave the D’var Torah on Inclusion Celebration Shabbat that was so moving we wanted to share it here.

Here are some pictures of the programs we hosted:

Marcie Goldstein introduced guest speaker NPR correspondent Joe Shapiro.

You, Me & Everyone: The Stories We Carry

D’var Torah given by Sara Vogler, Inclusion Task Force member and Inclusion Shabbat speaker on February 10

Growing up, as a family we watched Fiddler on the Roof. The main character, Teyye, famously says: “A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no? Why do we stay up there if it’s so dangerous? Well, we stay because Anatevka is our home. And how do we keep our balance? That I can tell you in one word: tradition!”

Tradition. I love the Torah, its complexities, its difficult questions, and its ever-evolving mirror into our lives. Stories. I am a storyteller. We all carry stories with us and we make choices as we share with others the stories about our traumas, hurt, anger, happiness, and joy. So I will share my story today.

I was born in Krakow, Poland, a place far from America but always close to my heart. I was born with TARSA Syndrome, a physical disability that affects my hands and arms. I could not get the medical care in Krakow to help me, so my family and I moved to California where I was a patient at Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles. There I had 17 surgeries. Each surgery would enable me to be stronger and independent. The most complicated surgery occurred in second grade, where I wore a mental brace with 10 pins in my bones for nine months. Each night my parents would turn the screws so that my bones could grow. As I wore this brace, it was extremely heavy and I was teased by my classmates. I had trouble making friends. I could not speak the language, so I was going to speech therapy in the mornings before classes. I attended Atid Hebrew School, a Jewish Day School that encouraged my acting skills. Every December we had Hanukkah performances, and in March we had Purim shows, too. I was bat mitzvahed in 2000 and confirmed soon after, and since then my Torah love has grown.

February is National Jewish Disability Awareness, and this is our fifth year to honor that. Accessibility should be honored all year long, not only for one month, but throughout everyday programming. And Adas does a good job of doing that through

continued on next page . . .
early childhood education classes, providing High Holidays accessibility, a quiet room with minimal sounds, live streaming, and American Sign Language interpreters. We are renovating the mikvah to include accessible features to ensure that folks with disabilities are able to immerse. All of that is wonderful. However, we need to reach further and higher. To me, inclusion means: come as you are, honor the wisdom and knowledge that we each have, and ask questions. Accessible spaces and programs are wonderful, but relationships are the next step toward full inclusivity.

I read recently that a community is “discovering each others’ lives honestly and radically, or something else that we have yet to uncover, that we might not have a word for.” That is our next step, where we will grow and make progress together. Thank you and Shabbat Shalom.

Hesed
Acts of Loving Kindness

There’s an old Jewish legend you may know, the one about the Lamed Vovniks, the 36 righteous ones in every generation upon whose merit the world is kept from entire destruction. But did you hear the one about the Hesed 200? It’s the one about the Adas Hesed Committee and the 200+ volunteers whose acts of lovingkindness have already helped repair our local community and the world in wondrous ways?

Perhaps you will add your name to the Adas Hesed Committee roster. Perhaps you are more like the Lamed Vovniks already performing merit anonymously. Or, perhaps, and you may not even know that yet (or you do), you are looking for an on-ramp to hesed. While Hesed with a capital H is indeed a formal Adas committee and new members are needed and welcome, you don’t have to sign up or even necessarily show up at Adas (although both options are open) to do hesed (a lower case “h,” acts of lovingkindness). Service and hesed come in many colors.

A person who receives love and aid “is far more likely to be able to pass on hesed to another person. Through acts of hesed (supported by tzedakah), where you treat someone like a human being, b’tselem elohim (in the image of God), with the respect they deserve, that person can be restored to the community. He or she can overcome the stigma of poverty, frailty, disease, or loneliness and can themselves become engaged, empowered actors of hesed.

Hesed is not about simply getting a request in the mail for funds and writing a check or bringing a can of soup to a box at your JCC or synagogue. It is not even about showing up once a year at the homeless shelter or soup kitchen or writing letters to Congress to effect social policies. Those are truly important, relevant acts, but they fail to engage people in relationships of understanding. It is when we become engaged with real people and communities on the other end of our giving of time and resources that we realize the covenantal aspect of hesed.

—Rabbi Sara Paasche-Orlow

So, to those of us balancing jobs, children, chores, time, stress, hesed and service really do come in many colors. Yes, it could be as a Hesed Committee volunteer (be a legend), but it also could be a consciousness expressed less formally. It could be anything from asking a person on the street who is looking at a map if you can help, or escorting an elderly person who is trying to juggle a plate and a beverage and find a table at kiddush, or helping someone cross the street. It means stopping at these opportunities, not just walking by and later thinking, I really should have . . . I wish I had . . .

If you are already living hesed, kol hakavod. If you can expand to encompass yet more, consider the opportunities each day brings to add hesed to the community, to the world, consider being a volunteer who can help Adas’s Hesed Committee to fulfill its mission and serve the needs of our community.

Here are the seven teams where Hesed Committee volunteers are needed; some are relatively easy options, things you can do from your home; some require going to Hesed Committee meetings and working with other volunteers; and others, the very direct action of interacting with those who need hesed. You choose your path. But, if you want to be the stuff of legends, here are some Hesed team options to consider:

Hesed Visits: connect with our elderly congregants either by phone or in person
Hesed Meals: provide meals to ill/recuperating members via Meal Train (cooking/purchase)
Hesed Phone: make erev Shabbat/holiday calls to homebound members
Hesed Baskets: assemble/deliver baskets to welcome new members and member newborns
Hesed Cooking: cook/deliver food for mourners, new members, families of newborns
Bereavement with Sisterhood: deliver food, candles, wine, condolences to families in mourning
Lev B’Lev: social action with our interfaith communities by letter writing, speaker series

For a full description of each of our teams, please visit adasisrael.org/hesed.

None of the above works for you? Not ready for the formal sector? Just open your heart when you leave home and seize an opportunity to share yourself. Reward yourself as you reward others. Live hesed. To volunteer, please contact hesed@adasisrael.org.
You joined Adas in 2013 but have been involved in the DC Jewish community for much longer and are still active members of Beth El Congregation in Alexandria, VA. Why did you decide to join Adas, and what keeps you at Beth El?

We met at a synagogue event in 1999 so our involvement in the Jewish community has been important to us for as long as we have been a couple. Both Adas Israel and Beth El Hebrew are committed to values that we share: inclusion of interfaith families, a strong bond with Israel, social justice, and lifelong learning. Like couples with two homes, one in the city and one in the country, we enjoy our engagement with both congregations, and both allow us to make meaningful contributions to our community.

I’m lucky to be friends with both of you on Facebook so I get to see your travels all over the country and world. What have been some of your favorite places to visit, and what places are on your wish list?

Our favorite place to travel is undoubtedly New York City because our two young grandchildren, Benjamin and Isabel, live there. Second favorite is Israel, where we have traveled together 10 times. We even led a congregational trip to Israel when the rabbi was injured. The Good Land is not just another destination—we are returning to our spiritual home. We were among few Western tourists in Israel at the time of the Second Intifada and were interviewed by Israel television. We have also traveled with educator Claire Simmons (and several Adas members) on Jewish history tours of Lithuania, Latvia, Morocco, Spain, Berlin, the Italian mainland, and a separate trip to Sicily. We recently traveled to Mexico City and fell in love in Mexico, so we have already planned a return trip there.

You both are extremely involved with everything DC; sports teams, local politics, theater, other nonprofits, etc. What originally brought you to the DC area, and what about the city excites you?

Howard arrived first in 1975 from Chicago to work for the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations as a member of the investigative staff for the late Senator Charles Percy (R-IL). Sandy was transferred here in 1997 by the American Medical Association, where she is still employed. Like many Washingtonians, we have “Potomac fever” and love being in our nation’s capital. We are Washington Capitals fans, which is a natural because we live next door to the Capital One Arena in Chinatown. We are active in DC politics, and Mayor Bowser appointed Howard to the DC Emancipation Day Commission. We are excited to live downtown with great theater, museums, shopping, parks, restaurants, and even a historic synagogue within easy walking distance.

Howard, you can be seen riding your bike to/from Adas to practice your Torah portion and to attend our Friday morning parsha study. For those who might be afraid of reading or studying Torah, can you give them some tips?

The four-mile uphill bike ride from Chinatown to Adas reminds Howard of the pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem during the chagim and helps him prepare for Torah study. If you want to read Torah, ask Naomi Malka to tutor you. She is an amazing patient musician who can teach you this challenging skill. I suffered brain freeze the first few times but now read with confidence thanks to Naomi. To be successful you need to practice every day. Advance preparation is not necessary for the Friday morning Torah study class with our co-senior rabbis. You will learn how the Hasidic masters and other great commentators interpreted the text. It seems they have worked late into the night preparing written study guides for the class. Just be a good listener and be prepared to contribute your thoughts to this lively intellectual free-for-all.

You have an adorable dog, Sabra. What kind of dog is she, how did you decide on her name, and what are some of the best dog-friendly places in DC that she gets to explore with you?

Sabra is a Jack Russell terrier and, like the sabras in Israel, she can seem tough on the outside, especially when she barks at skateboarders, but she is very sweet on the inside. Some of Sabra’s favorite places to walk her humans are the National Building Museum, the National Mall, and Lafayette Square. She also asked us to tell you that she would like to come with us to Adas sometime.

We are very focused on building community here at Adas, and Howard, you have been active on our Membership Engagement Committee. What does community mean to you? How have you built your Adas community? What advice do you have for others to build community here?

Our best advice is simply to show up. The more engaged you are with Adas, the more rewarding it will be for you. We have been involved in a lot of different activities, including worship services, Shabbat dinners, adult education, cultural events like concerts, volunteering with SOME, and community-wide events like the gathering in response to the Paris terrorist attack. It is very much a two-way street, and the Adas Israel community has been wonderful to us. The rabbis and several Adas members visited Sandy in the ICU last year and the Hesed Committee delivered meals to our home after her discharge.
Passover Greetings from Sisterhood

ADAS SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT MIRIAM ROSENTHAL

As we celebrate this holiday of Passover, I am humbled and awed by the talented women of our congregation. From our clergy to our shul president to the women who run ongoing Sisterhood programs—Weekday Torah with Sisterhood, Take a Walk!, Mah Jongg, Sisterhood Sews, Knits, and Crafts, and successful one-time programs such as our Passover series—I am inspired. As someone who doesn’t have sisters, I find that Sisterhood is an opportunity to experience the support, counsel, creativity, and wisdom of my “sisters.”

To join Sisterhood and keep up with our opportunities, check out our Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/AdasIsraelSisterhood/ or @AdasIsraelSisterhood; our website, www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood, including the online calendar; and our announcements via @adas, e-mails, and the weekly Order of Service.

You still have opportunities for Passover-related fun with Sisterhood!

On Shabbat, April 7, Take a Walk! will have an exodus to the National Zoo. Meet at 1:00 pm at the side entrance of Adas Israel, 2850 Quebec St, NW.

On Wednesday, April 11, at 7:00 pm, expert challah baker Leah Hadad will lead us in making schlissel balls. These were historically baked and eaten on the first Shabbat following the conclusion of Passover. The schlissel, or key, was meant to symbolize opening the door or gates to success and livelihood. Apparently there were some who were concerned that this was too similar to the Christian custom of baking hot cross buns, but it seems that the various Hasidic and Orthodox groups decided there was no reason for concern, and it is a custom that has seen resurgence. For more information, contact Leah Hadad, leahhadad@aol.com (insert Schlissel Balls in the subject line) or 202-537-0708. Cost: $5.

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood with Naomi Malka

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 10:00 AM, FUNGER HALL, A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LEVITICUS

The Book of Leviticus is challenging to understand, arguably obsessive and difficult to translate into a modern set of ideals or practices. God’s presence fills the text in vastly different ways from what is perceived in the other books of the Torah. Join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood on April 17, at 10:00 am upstairs in the Funger Hall as Mikvah Director Naomi Malka teaches about the transition from the wilderness into the Mishkan, the ritual of animal sacrifice, categories of tamei/tahor, and ancient methods of disease control, all through a fresh lens.

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; the next sessions are May 8 and June 12. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. For more information, please contact Marilyn Cooper at MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com.
Sisterhood Knitting, Sewing, & Craft Circle

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 @ 7:30 PM**
**YOUTH LOUNGE**

Our knitters have made two donations of hats and scarves to the DCJCC and one to the International Rescue Committee. They will be working on more scarves at the request of the DCJCC and are now including hats for newborn babies for Adas’s own Hesed group that delivers New Baby Bags. Donations of 100% wool suitable for newborn baby hats are most welcome. All donations and completed projects can be left in the marked bins in the cloakroom.

The sewing group is now at work on the appliqués for the second Torah mantle, the table cover and the **bein gavra**, and we are hopeful that this work will be completed by the end of summer. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 18, at 7:30 pm, in the Youth Lounge. Everyone is welcome to join us. Lesley Frost, lesleyfrost0@gmail.com. Next meetings: May 16, June 20.

Mah Jongg Group Open to all Adas!

**THURSDAYS @ 1 PM**
**SISTERHOOD HALL**

Mah jongg will continue weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. Bring your National Mahjongg League card ($8, nationalmahjonggleague.org). The cards come in large print for $1 more. For those new to the game, we’ll teach you. This activity is not restricted to Sisterhood members. To express interest and to RSVP for the mahjongg group, contact Barbara Friedell, 702-630-5106 (C); or 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 the training of clergy and Judaic educators, administrators, and social work candidates studying at Conservative/Masorti institutions. For more information on the campaign, and to view or purchase beautiful life cycle and greeting cards year round to benefit Torah Fund, see [http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/](http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/).

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**ruth & simon albert**

**SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP**

The First Passover **seder** is Friday night, March 30. Please visit us to choose a beautiful **seder** plate, **matzah** cover or basket, or **Elijah** cup. We also have wonderful children’s items, including Passover books, to give as **afikomen** prizes or to distract the little ones during your **seder**.

**Shop Hours**
Sunday-Monday, Weds.-Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

**Shop Hours**
Tuesday, Special Extended Hours 9:30am-3:00pm & 6:00-8:00pm

**Every purchase benefits**
Adas Israel Congregation
In the two years since our daughter Minna made aliya, my husband and I have been captivated by her tales of life in Israel. But there is one odd motif that repeats in her stories. Many of Minna’s new friends and acquaintances are drawn to yoga, meditation retreats, overseas travel to sparsely populated destinations, and wilderness hiking—all for the stated purpose of “escaping Israeli stress.” Maybe Minna randomly encountered a cluster of people sensitive to stress? But then congregant/avid reader Herlene Nagler introduced me to the novels of Israeli author Eshkol Nevo. In Nevo’s poignant and humorous books, stressed-out Israelis abound. These novels—presumably like Israel itself—are full of young people who love their homeland yet sometimes feel overwhelmed by the tension and complexity of Israeli life.

Born in Jerusalem in 1971, Eshkol Nevo is named for his grandfather, Levi Eshkol, Israel’s third prime minister. Four of Nevo’s bestselling novels have been translated into English: Homesick (2008); World Cup Wishes (2010); Neuland (2014); and Three Stories Up (2017). Only Homesick and Three Stories Up are described below, but all four novels are available in our library. Try one!
HOMESICK

Set in 1995, during the tumultuous time preceding and following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, *Homesick* weaves together the stories and perspectives of neighbors living in a hilltop village outside Jerusalem. We first meet two students, Amir (studying psychology) and his girlfriend Noa (studying photography) while they are trying to locate an advertised rental apartment. Due to faulty directions, they wind up in the wrong apartment with a family sitting shiva for their son, an Israeli soldier killed in Lebanon. Feeling it would be rude to leave, Amir and Noa sit quietly with the mourners for an hour, never mentioning that they are there by mistake. This awkward sweetness is typical of Nevo’s characters.

Amir and Noa end up renting an apartment in a nearby house. Different personality types, they struggle with the adjustment of living together. Their neighbors have troubles, too. Sima and Moshe, the owners of the house, argue over a Jewish versus secular education for their children. Yotam, the lonely 10-year-old brother of the soldier killed in Lebanon, roams the neighborhood hoping for attention from his grieving parents. Meanwhile, Saddiq, a Palestinian construction laborer, becomes obsessed with Sima and Moshe’s house, which his parents owned before the 1948 War of Independence. Nevo, in an interview, said that he originally titled this book “Osmosis,” because he wanted to show the way events in Israeli society—political change, military conflicts, terrorist attacks—seep into private life.

THREE FLOORS UP

This novel takes the form of three loosely linked stories about the troubled residents of an apartment house in a Tel Aviv suburb. The three narrators are flawed, lonely people confessing to mistakes they made as a parent or a spouse. Nevo says that the novel’s themes include the “dark sides of parenthood” and the “conflict between parenthood and couplehood.” These themes play out against the backdrop of widespread social justice protests in Tel Aviv in 2011.

Arnon, on the first floor, is obsessed by the idea that an elderly babysitter may have molested his young daughter. Hani, on the second floor, is an exhausted stay-at-home mom who impulsively agrees to hide her ne’er-do-well brother-in-law, Eviatar, from loan sharks, but after he leaves wonders whether she just imagined the incident. And Devora, a recently widowed, retired judge on the third floor, leaves messages on her late husband’s answering machine, updating him on her new life decisions, which include reconciling with their estranged son.

NEXT ADAS BOOK CHAT:

*The Patriots* by Sana Krasikov

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 10:00 – 11:00 AM IN THE LIBRARY

Join us to discuss this plot-twisting novel set mostly in the former Soviet Union. For more information, please contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).
**BIRTHS**

Isaac Begal, son of Kira & William Begal, was born February 2.
Jonah Seth Suttenberg, son of Elana & Jeremy Suttenberg, was born February 16.
Cole Pottinger, son of Matt & Yen Pottinger, was born February 20.
Mira Tabak, daughter of Ruth & Gabe Tabak, was born February 28.

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

**B’NAI MITZVAH**

**David Fritz, April 14 (TEM)**
David, son of Lorien Abroms and Jonathan Fritz, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. David, who became part of the Adas Israel family after joining the Torah Club in sixth grade, blends a love of Judaism, family, friends, learning and playing games of all kinds. He passionately loves playing sports, especially basketball, and plays on three teams including the JDS and Adas teams. He runs cross-country and plays soccer and flag football. His *mitzvah* project is volunteering with the SOME (So Others Might Eat) soup kitchen in DC and participating in a sports equipment drive at his school. David is looking forward to celebrating his *simcha* with loving family and friends, from near and far, including Canada, Costa Rica, Israel, France, England, and South Africa.

**Lillian Berger, April 21, in Israel**
Lillian, daughter of Liz and Jon Berger, is a sixth grader at the American International School in Israel. Lillian began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, where she spent three years before moving with her family to Lithuania. Lillian has lived in Israel for the last five years. She will be called to the Torah at Hod ve Hadar in Kfar Saba, Israel. In addition to sharing her *simcha* with her sister Eve and her parents, Lillian is thrilled that her grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends are traveling to Israel to celebrate with her. For her *mitzvah* project, Lillian is volunteering at Leket Israel, which distributes healthy, surplus food to needy families.

**Allyn Martus, April 28**
Allyn, daughter of Devra and Jay Martus, is a sixth-grade student at Washington International School (WIS). Sharing in the tradition and celebration will be her older sister Manning. Allyn has had the opportunity to travel extensively and enjoys participating with the Children’s Chorus of Washington. For her *mitzvah* project, she has met with a Holocaust survivor, is reading accounts of other survivors, and plans to create a program for raising Holocaust awareness and educating her peers at WIS.

**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

*Mazal tov to Lincoln Aftergood, David Fritz, and Adina Siff, winners of the JDS (Jewish Day School) Spelling Bee!*

*Mazal Tov to Hannah Hessel Ratner, one of the recipients of the 2018 Bly Fellowships and Grants from The Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)*
IN MEMORIAM

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Bradford Barshow, father of Howard Barshow
Allen Boorstein, brother of Edith Couturier
Rabbi Allan Langner, father of Rabbi Gilah Langner
Rosalin Newberg, mother of Celia Steingold

Patricia Rashkin, mother of Dr. Jason Rashkin
Sylvia Levin Rusoff, mother of Gail Roache
Guta Naiman Wolke, grandmother of Sara Cohen

LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION

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

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

Adas Israel Community Mikvah
Our mikvah is being renovated this summer! New tiles, new fixtures, and, most important, new features that will expand everyone’s ability to access the mikvah safely. Stay tuned for more updates!

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 simchat; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom, or bar or bat mitzvah; to convert to Judaism. To learn more about our mikvah or to schedule an appointment, contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah.

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

Adas Office Closings

Passover Days 1 & 2
Saturday & Sunday, March 31 & April 1
Schools/Offices Closed

Passover Erev Yom Tov
Thursday, April 5
Schools/Offices Close at 3:30pm

Passover Days 7 & 8
Friday & Saturday, April 6 & 7
Schools/Offices Closed
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**Adas Fund**
In Memory Of: David Bubes by Diane Rosenberg.

**Anne Frank House Fund**
By: David & Toni Bickart, Joel & Bernice Breslau, Rabbi Charles Feinberg & Kraya Feinberg, Stuart Horn & Marian Fox, Sophia Lang, Roger & Shelia Meyer, Natalie Patel, Sarah Shapiro, Paul Waiters, Susan P. Willers.
In Honor Of: Ari Strauss by Heather Moran.
Andrew Meyers by Beth Simon.
In Memory Of: Martin Schwat & Norton Weiss by David & Ari Antonelli.

**Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund**
In Honor Of: Birthday of Elijah Friedman by Judith Friedman & Joe Cecil.
In Memory Of: Regina K. Friedman by Judith Friedman.

**Bereavement Fund**
In Appreciation Of: Edie Hessel’s support by Robin Berman.
In Gratitude To: Marcia Miller by Drs. Sybil & Steven Wolin.
In Memory Of: Beatrice Snyder Mattleman & in gratitude for the kindness shown to me during the period of mourning for my mother by Gwen Mattleman. Abe Frost & Regina Frost by Philip Frost.

**Bernard & Rita Segerman Endowment Fund**
In Honor Of: Harry Linowes on his 90th birthday by Rita Segerman.
In Memory Of: Sylvia Levin Rusoff & Helen Katz Rosenberg by Rita Segerman.

**Beverly Bernstein Adult Bat Mitzvah Fund**
In Memory Of: Rose Bildman by Lois Levitan.

**Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund**
In Honor Of: Cantor Arianne Brown by Unice Lieberman.
In Memory Of: Gertrude Bieber by Sandy Bieber.

**Capital Fund Contributions**
In Honor Of: David Polonsky being honored by NAASE by Sheri Brown.

**Charlotte & Hubert Schlosberg High Holy Day Mahzor Fund**
For the Speedy Recovery Of: Hank Schlosberg by Adrian & Annette Mochoruck.

**Congregational Kiddush Fund**
In Honor Of: Elijah Ascher becoming a bar mitzvah by Halley Ascher. Birth of Ruthann Eder by Keven Eder & Molly Barackman–Eder.

**Lola Marvin** becoming a bat mitzvah by Lucille & Robert Marvin. Ruby Luzatto becoming a bat mitzvah by Tameria Luzatto & David Leiter, Anne Luzatto & Sardon Litwin, Joe Tydings, & Terry Tydings. Our aufruf by Zach Mancher & Rachel Sier. 50th Anniversary of Alan’s bar mitzvah by Alan Roth & Michael Rogers.
In Memory Of: Phillip Lewis by Alisa Abrams.

**Craig Jeffrey Atlas Hebrew University Fund**
In Memory Of: Lorraine Berenter by Arline Atlas.

**Daily Minyan Fund**
In Honor Of: Birth of Susan & Richard Ugelow’s grandson, Jacob by Lorna Grenadier.
In Appreciation Of: Warmth, openness & friendliness of the congregation by Lawrence Berman & Thomas Milk.

**Dr. & Mrs. Stanley W. Kirstein Gan Memorial Fund**
In Honor Of: David Diamond by Enid Groves.

**Dr. William & Vivienne Stark Wedding & Anniversary Fund**
In Memory Of: Giza Stark by William & Vivienne Stark.

**Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund**
In Honor Of: Alan Bubes by Benjamin Nussdorff.

**Executive Director Discretionary Fund**
In Honor Of: David Polonsky receiving his FSA standing with NAASE by Jane Baldinger. With Thanks For: David Polonsky’s support after the death of my beloved mother, Sylvia Rusoff by Gail & Don Roache.

**Garden of the Righteous**
In Memory Of: Shirley Ansell by Judy Strauch.

**Goldstein-Lande Shabbat Kiddush Fund**
In Honor Of: Our 20th anniversary by Ronnie Kweller & Barton Turner. My 70th birthday by Ronnie Kweller.

**Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund**
In Honor Of: Harry Linowes with special best wishes on your milestone birthday by Diane Epstein.
In Memory Of: Dorothy Wolf Linowes & Amb. Sol Linowitz by Harry & Judie Linowes.

**Hesed & Bikur Cholim Fund**
By: Beth Heifetz & Glenn Fine.
In Gratitude For: My recent aliya by Ronnie Kweller.
With Thanks For: The delicious Shabbat meal following the passing of my beloved mother, Sylvia Rosoff by Gail Roache.

**Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington**
In Honor Of: Lauren Rubenstein by Terry & Ada Leach.

**Kullen Family Fund**
In Memory Of: Sidney I. Margolis by Shirley Kullen.

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

**MakomDC Fund**
In Honor Of: Our rabbis by Ada & Terry Leach.

**Marxine & Gerald Freedman Endowment Fund**

**Mikvah Fund**
In Honor Of: Naomi Maika by Unice Lieberman.
In Loving Memory Of: My parents, Jack & Edith Green by Fradel Kramer.

**Offerings Fund**
In Honor Of: Sadie Foer becoming a bat mitzvah by Franklin Foer & Abby Greensfelder. My successful surgery by Robert Cline. With Thanks For: The outpouring of love & support following the passing of my beloved mother, Sylvia Rusoff by Gail Roache.
In Memory Of: Adeline Jolson by Clara & Meredith Register. Sylvia Levin Rusoff by Gail & Don Roache, Steve & Sandy Lachter, Dr. Howard L. Kantor by Karen & Samuel Winer.

**Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund**
In Honor Of: Rabbi Alexander by Paul & Rona Walters.
In Memory Of: Gertrude Bieber by Sandy Bieber. Harry Moses Lazar by Marion Usher.

**Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund**
In Honor Of: Rabbi Holtzblatt by Paul & Rona Walters. The bris of our our son, Isaac by Bill & Kira Begal. Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt by Unice Lieberman.
In Appreciation Of: Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt’s support & being “present” after Uncle Bud Rothstein died by Robin Berman.
With Thanks To: Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt for all you do by Jill Herscot & Andrew Bartley.
In Memory Of: Jean Caplan Lazar by Dr. Marion Ushert. Gertrude Bieber by Sandy Bieber.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund
By: Adina & Sandy Mendelson.

Rothstein Family Israel College Scholarship Fund
In Memory Of: Bette M. Rothstein by Robin Berman. Bud Rothstein by Kate Dewitt.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education
In Memory Of: Jerome Sorcher & Florence J. Kahn by Alan & Dale Sorch.

Shelley Remer Gan HaYeled Enrichment Fund
In Honor Of: David Diamond by Enid Groves. Engagement of Gaby Joseph & Ilan Layman by the Eastons.

Siddur Lev Shalem Prayerbook Fund
In Memory Of: Our mother & grandmother, Mildred Hofberg, by Sandy & Stanley Bobb. Tammy Mendelson, Jodi & Rodd Macklin, Beth & Daryl Bobb.

Sisterhood Donations
In Honor Of: The extraordinary work and planning by the Sisterhood for this year’s wonderful Sisterhood Shabbat by David & Heather Polonsky. For the Speedy Recovery Of: Jill Jacob by Miriam Rosenthal & Mileve Phillips. In Memory Of: Sylvia Levin Rusoff by Gail & Don Roache.

Social Action Fund
In Honor Of: Dr. Al Munzer with gratitude for your words of wisdom by Rabbi Herbert Schwartz.

Social Action Fund
In Memory Of: Anne Buring by Benjamin & Shelly Buring.

Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Music Fund
In Memory Of: Dorothy Wolf Linowes by Richard Linowes.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund
By: Shana & Robert Zucker.

Tzedakah Fund

Tzedakah Fund

Warren Dennis Memorial School Scholarship Fund
By: Diane Dennis.

Yiskor/Yahrzeit Fund

Youth Department Activities Fund

Thank you to everyone who made Kol HaOlam possible!!


Our Amazing Groups: Ani V’Ata (New York University), CHAI NOTES (Hofstra University), CHAI TUNES (Emory University), HOOSHIR (University of Indiana) Kaskets (Binghamton University), Ketzav (John Hopkins University), Kol Sasson (University of Maryland), Mezumenet (University of Maryland), ShireNU (Northwestern University), special guests Rak Shalom (University of Maryland) and Tizmoret (Queens College).

Our Adas Staff, Arts Laureate, Our Amazing Audience of 900 People, And mazal tov to our winners!

1st prize: Ani V’Ata, 2nd prize: Hooishir, 3rd prize: ShireNU

Best Beatorcher: Josh Perlin; ChaiTunes
Best Soloist: Molly Chapman; Ani V’Ata
Best Arrangement: Sam Shapiro; Ani V’Ata
Audience Favorite: Ani V’Ata
A SACRED BLEND OF TRADITION & INNOVATION

UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINE—
June:
Monday, April 30, at noon