The new and fully interactive adasisrael.org

myAdasexperience

Learn more about new & important features on the synagogue’s website on page 2 of this month’s Chronicle

Shavuot at Adas Begins Saturday Evening, May 19th!

The Chronicle Is Supported in Part by the Ethel and Nat Popick Endowment Fund
The new and fully interactive adasisrael.org

New & important features on the synagogue’s website:

- login as you with a personalized account
- interact with your Adas profile
- control billing and set up payments & payment plans
- access unique, personalized content & information
- create your very own Adas online experience

What can it do?

Effective today, all Adas Israel community members can individually login securely to the synagogue’s website, adasisrael.org. When logged in, you’ll be able to view and interact with your synagogue accounts, profiles, school enrollments, event registrations, billing information, and more. A new and user-friendly way to access personalized content and information, monitor your own account, and set up payments in easier, faster, clearer, and more manageable ways (a la 21st century).

Highlights include:

- Easily access your synagogue statements in real time.
- Review recent transactions and registrations.
- Easily make payments online via checking accounts and/or credit cards.
- Set up ongoing, automatic payment plans through your account!

And don’t worry, you can always still use checks, stock gifts, or other payment mechanisms if that’s best for you. But we are proud to offer this safe, dynamic, user-friendly online option now as well.

How do I get started?

All Adas Israel community members now have an online Adas account. Now, it’s time for you to login, check your info, and set a personalized password for future regular use.

An Email from Adas Israel Congregation with the subject line, “Login to the new and fully interactive adasisrael.org,” was sent to your Email address. Please open that Email, click on the link to access your account, and then complete the steps below. If you cannot locate that email, please email us at adasoffice@adasisrael.org. If you do not have an email address, or regularly use the internet, feel free to give us a call if you would like our help getting you all set up. Or, if you would prefer to do nothing with this software and continue working from mailed statements, etc., that is completely fine, and there is no need to do anything more.

1. Visit Your Profile Info Page
   By clicking the link in your inbox, you’ll be directed to the page dedicated to managing and updating your personal information. Feel free to review and update all the info, as appropriate.

2. Update Email
   Make sure the Email provided as your login is the one you would like to use.

3. Create Password
   Create and confirm a new password to use in the future.

4. Save Profile
   Scroll to the bottom and click “Save changes to person”.

If you run into any problems or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff at adasoffice@adasisrael.org or 202.362.4433. Please note, for two adult households, you will each have your own personal login, of which are both tethered to one connected household account.
How will I login moving forward?

When you visit adasisrael.org, you will now see a gray box at the top-right of the screen that enables you to login to your personal Adas Israel account.

1. Visiting adasisrael.org
   If you are not logged in, you will see the following, with the “Login” button at the top of the page:

2. Be Sure To Login!
   When you land on the site, feel free to click to login. You will see your name appear in the top right of the website when you are successfully logged in.

Please Note:
In order to view your account, complete registrations, and/or make payments, you will need to be logged in to your personal Adas account. By logging in, the website will automatically update with any activity through your account.

What can I do with the new adasisrael.org?

- View your financial transactions history online.
- Pay your bill online with credit card, or bill your Adas account.
- Update information for you and your family members.
- Make donations.
- Before long, view an “opt-in” Adas directory.
- Register for classes and events and make payments online.

How do I set up payments?

My Profile: Your Personal Account Page
This page will show you your profile and household information, as well as your recent statement information, transaction history, and other relevant account information. This is also the page from which you can make payments and set up payment plans:

1. Access Your Profile Page
   When you are logged in, the last tab on the right of the website navigation will say “my account.” Click on it, and you will be taken to your profile page:

2. Making Payments
   Once on the profile page, you can view your balance under “Balance” and click “Submit a Payment” to make a payment:

3. Payment Options
   You can then choose to pay off all outstanding items, or select which items to pay at this time. Also, you can choose to pay them all at once, or set up an automatic payment plan using a checking account and/or credit card:

Have Questions? Need Help?
Contact us at 202.362.4433, adasoffice@adasisrael.org or send your questions to:

Personal Account Management: Marcy.Spiro@adasisrael.org
Financial and Billing: Chloe.Chemla@adasisrael.org
Event Registration: Courtney.Tisch@adasisrael.org
Gan HaYeled Registration: Abby.Koplow@adasisrael.org
Religious School Registration: Sarah.Attermann@adasisrael.org
We are surrounded by opportunities to repair the world...

Growing up in the piney woods of East Texas, in a town of 4,997 people—plus the three Jews in my family, the only ones in town—I learned many things about the Jewish people that have proven false. My neighbors thought we had three horns, for example. At the age of three, I was too young to be upset about such things, but I was a bit confused.

A couple of years back, I was chatting with some people who worked for me. Most but not all of them knew I was Jewish, and one who didn't started talking with great pride about how he recently “jewed” the guy down. No one said a word. I later asked these people why they hadn’t said anything; their response was that they’d been waiting for me to say something since this comment affected me.

Just a few weeks ago, splitting the dinner bill with friends at Positano, one guy said he’s leaving a tip of $8.00. I said I was leaving $7.69. “Oh, that’s right, you’re Jewish,” he chortled. This time, I was not one bit confused, but I was pretty upset. (I was creating a round number for the total, as is my habit.)

I've spent a lot of time following in my parents' footsteps, carefully explaining how painful such words are. Explaining why they're hurtful. Giving history lessons. Explaining what's wrong with these ideas.

Then I received a message from our rabbis, saying they'd just had a conversation with this young man, that they found him confused but interested in learning. By the time you read this, there'll have been meetings, the Council member will have attended a seder, and perhaps the young man will have learned something about how painful such words are, why they're hurtful, and what's wrong with these ideas.

I learn valuable lessons all the time from Rabbi Alexander and Rabbi Holtzblatt. They don’t sit down and teach me stuff intentionally; rather, they set an example by their actions and their generosity of heart. I told someone I’d been surprised there was so little outrage from the Jewish community about this Council member’s remarks, and it seemed the emphasis was on extending friendship and understanding. I thought there’d been a turning point in the Jewish community, and I was happy to see it.

Of course, I was wrong. Kindness and the desire to educate people never went away; they are permanent Jewish values.

I had chosen to act differently. I had drifted into the realm of believing the worst about people who made anti-Semitic remarks. By contrast, our rabbis seek to make a bridge, to enlighten, to believe the best of people.

Life is better, and I’m certainly happier, when I remember I don’t have to give in to my basest instincts. And we Jews are the ones who have to approach such matters with open hearts and the desire to teach people how they can be better. I’d thought my employees had taught me it’s rare for someone else to stand up for us and we have to do this ourselves. Again, I was wrong. What those people taught me is that we are surrounded by opportunities to repair the world. They’re everywhere. We just have to see them.
SHAVUOT
BEGINS SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 19

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS

"The Late Lounge"
70 FACES OF REVELATION
SHIVIM PANIM SHEI MATAN TORAH

You stood at the foot of the mountain. Your grandparents and great-grandparents before them. The souls of all Jews from all times, came together to hear the resounding proclamation of the Ten Commandments! This year at Adas we come together again, like our ancestors before us, to learn, give, commit, countdown, have faith, and eat.

On this holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah, our eternal guide, we will unpack and expand upon the famous rabbinic commentary that teaches: there are 70 faces to Torah. In other words, our holy book is so expansive that each of us can see ourselves within it. But this also means there is a remarkable uniqueness to its initial dissemination amongst the Israelite people—a Sinai of the past, present, and future.

Together we’ll explore this idea, textually, while also talking together about the ways in which this diverse identity finds itself within our own community here at Adas Israel.

Leading up to the Mountain, Counting the Omer
Shavuot literally means “weeks” as it occurs precisely seven weeks after the second day of Passover. The 49 days between Passover and Shavuot are known as 49 Omerim (the counting of the omer), reminiscent of the days when farmers brought a measure (omer) of their newly harvested grain to the Temple. Join us during Ma’ariv each evening to count the omer, and ritualistically add a portion of wheat to the row of glass jars in the front lobby, as an expression of our connection to the Temple times, the connection the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot have to the Second Temple period, for some the Seferah turned into seven weeks of semi-mourning, during which some do not get haircuts, go to banquets, listen to music, or attend a wedding.

The Erev Learning
On the first night of Shavuot this year, Saturday evening, May 19, Jews throughout the world observe the centuries-old custom of conducting an all-night gathering dedicated to Torah learning and preparation for receiving the Torah the next morning. At Adas, learners of all ages will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and learn Torah. We will have multiple learning sessions to choose from with our dynamic clergy; see the full learning schedule on the next page.

“The Late Lounge” An Outdoor Shavuot Late Night Experience at Adas
Spend the late hours of Erev Shavuot with the moon, the stars and the Torah. Journey outdoors to our re-imagined desert oasis (on the transformed Connecticut Ave. Plaza), enjoy freshly roasted coffee, mint tea and sweets from around the world; drink Shavuot Shooters and coffee-themed cocktails; lounge out under our tents to the tune of smooth desert beats, niggunim, and soulful words of Torah from an array of DC area rabbis.

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS

FULL SHAVUOT 2018 SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 pm</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbis Holzhblatt &amp; Alexander</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 pm</td>
<td>Ma’ariv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 pm</td>
<td>Outside Torah Experience Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 pm</td>
<td>Break-out Study Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 pm</td>
<td>Something New! Join Rabbis Alexander and Holzhblatt on the patio for a Communal Moment of (Spontaneous) Blessings - We need them!</td>
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Shavuot Day 1, Sunday, May 20, Light candles at 9:00 pm

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Combined Charles E. Smith Sanctuary &amp; Traditional Equalitarian Minyan Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Mincha/Ma’ariv/Rabbis Alexander</td>
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Shavuot Day 2, Monday, May 21

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>All invited to the service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Yizkor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Mincha</td>
</tr>
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*For an updated schedule please go to www.adasisrael.org/shavuot

Lag B’Omer
Excerpt from the Jewish Federations of North America website:

This year Lag B’Omer is on Thursday, May 3 (or the 18th of Iyar), but even before the second seder is over—while we’re still at the table—we start to count the days until Shavuot in what has become known as Seferah HaOmer—the counting of the omer. In Temple times, the Seferah connected the seven weeks between the Passover barley harvest with the wheat harvest of Shavuot.

Starting with the second day of Passover, our ancestors brought sheaves of grain to the Temple in Jerusalem. These sheaves (called omer—literally, a ‘measure’) were brought every day for 49 days and placed on the altar as an offering to God. Then, on the 50th day, the people celebrated Shavuot. Two loaves of bread made from the new wheat crop were offered in thanksgiving for God’s bounty, and the counting of the omer was finished for another year.

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

Some say the reason for this change from gladness to gloom is because we can no longer bring offerings to the Temple. Others say the mourning is for Bar Kochba’s failed rebellion against the Romans and for the 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiba who perished in the fighting. Whatever the reason for the mournful mood of the omer, things brighten up on the 33rd day of the count with the arrival—in the Hebrew month of Iyar—of the festival of Lag B’Omer, (Lag from the Hebrew letters lamed and gimmel, which add up to 33). Lag B’Omer has no religious significance and its origins are a mystery. Was it instituted simply as a joyous break in the seven solemn weeks? Or is it perhaps connected with the legendary mystic, Rabbi Shimeon bar Yohai, who—before his death on Iyar 18—taught his disciples to observe the yarzeit—the anniversary of his death—in joy, not in sorrow? In many communities, dozens of weddings are performed on Lag B’Omer. People have parties and go to concerts, little boys get their first haircuts, and many celebrate Lag B’Omer with picnics in the woods.
Rabbi Sarah Krinsky to Be Adas Israel’s New Assistant Rabbi

To the Membership of Adas Israel Congregation,

I am writing to let you know that the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee (Johanna Chanin, chair), in consultation with Rabbi Alexander and Holtzblatt, Executive Director David Polonsky, and members of our Board of Directors, and after careful tabulation and study of the surveys our members submitted after each candidate’s visit, has offered the position of Assistant Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation to Rabbi Sarah Krinsky.

I’m delighted to report that Rabbi Krinsky immediately and enthusiastically accepted our offer, and plans to join our community beginning July 1! We look forward to welcoming her to our remarkable clergy team and community this summer.

We’re fortunate to have had three outstanding candidates visit our congregation. Each brought her or his own Torah, style, and personality. We’ve learned from and studied with each; we’ve prayed together; and the candidates met with our clergy team, with me, with the staff, and with the Search Committee members. Our Board of Directors also met with each rabbi in a question-and-answer session. The committee members faced a difficult decision and gave themselves ample time for thorough consideration and discussion. I’d like to tell you a little bit about the deliberation process.

The Committee considered three primary factors in its final meeting:
• results of the surveys our members provided for each candidate, as well as additional comments from Board and community members;
• feedback from our clergy and professional staff, following their interactions and experiences with each candidate; and
• deliberations and considerations of the members of the search committee.

While there was certainly excitement for each candidate, Rabbi Krinsky stood out in all three areas, and the committee determined she was truly an outstanding match for our growing and vibrant community at this time.

We owe tremendous thanks to this Search Committee. Johanna Chanin as chair, and members Rae Grad, Laurie Moskowitz, Brian Schwalb, Healey Sutton, Ari Strauss, and Julia Gordon (ex-officio), gave our congregation their time for several months, as well as their thoughtful analysis of what is in the best interest of our Adas Israel community. They have done mitzvah work for sure. We are beyond grateful to this dedicated group of members for its invaluable service to Adas Israel and its many community members.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at president@adasisrael.org or Johanna Chanin at astrossearch成为一个adasisrael.org.

Ricki Gerger, Synagogue President

Rabbi Sarah Krinsky, who will receive her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary this spring, earned a B.A. from Yale University. She currently serves as the Rabbinic Fellow at B’nai Jeshurun in New York City, where she co-leads a wide variety of musical prayer services throughout the year for adults, families, children, and teens. She also helps manage the synagogue’s conversion process, and is involved in teaching, counseling, and mentoring Jews by choice. Her work with teens and young adults includes teaching and curriculum development for religious schools, b’nai mitzvah preparation, and summer camp.

Rabbi Krinsky has served as a member of the Rabbinical Assembly’s Social Justice and Public Policy Staff, and as a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. She has developed social justice programming, including community engagement opportunities, for all age groups, and has received several awards from UJA and JTS. Rabbi Krinsky looks forward to moving to Washington, DC, and joining the Adas Israel community with her husband, Rabbi Daniel Novick.
The end of the school year gives us an opportunity to celebrate our students, learn from them as they reflect on the year past, and send them off with love as they begin their next journeys for the summer and beyond. We are so proud of the students in our Ma'alot program and hope that you will join us for our special evening.

Ma'alot Awards & Nesiyah Tovah Ceremony
Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 pm

The evening's program will begin at 7:30 pm in the Gewirz Beit Am as we celebrate our Ma'alot award recipients and wish our 10th graders Nesiyah Tovah as they prepare for the Israel trip.

Ma'alot Awards:
The Ben Cooper Community Youth Service Leadership Award
The Herman and Jennie Robbin Middle School Award
The Herman and Jennie Robbin High School Award
The Nathan and Rosa Povich Award

Nesiyah Tovah:
We wish our 10th-grade students Nesiyah Tovah (good travels) as they prepare to embark on the Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience, a two-week trip to Israel.

Tenth-Grade Class:
Aladjem, Gabrielle
Berger, Aden
Carvalho Loeb, Miriam
Dunn, Avery
Dunn, Marzen
Himmelfarb, Joseph
Kagan, Maya
Kanter-Goodell, Gabriel
Klein, Arielle
Knishkowy, Aaron
Koosig, Mimi
Kosatnicki, Maia
Kupfer, Andrew
Lehrich, Tally
Leitman, Ethan
Lerner, Samuel
Marc, Rebecca
Mazia, Angela
Moyle, Madeline
Neufeld, Ethan
Ronen, Zevi
Rosten, Daniel
Sacks, Dylan
Stein, Tali
Stutman-Shaw, Caleb
Weinstein, Eden

Garden Party & Happy Hour to Honor Sheri Brown
Friday, May 18 at 5:00 pm

On Friday, May 18th at 5PM, Adas Israel and the GPA will be hosting a Garden Party / Happy Hour (kid-friendly) for Sheri, who will be wrapping up her time as Director of the Gan. This event will come right before the family Shabbat service and dinner, which will start at 6PM. So please save the date!

The GPA is also proud to announce that as an expression of our appreciation for Sheri, we will be expanding the garden along the side of the building/parking lot.

Come toast Sheri and her immense contributions to our Gan community and her role in our kids’ development. A more formal email with details will follow, but we are excited to flag this on your calendar.

We can’t wait to see you there -- Warmest regards,

Gan Parent Association Co-Chairs
Tali Stein, Ian Halpern, Jana Kadden, and Danny Rosenthal

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

May 13
Last Day of Religious School/End-of-Year Celebration

May 15
Ma’alot Nesiyah Tovah/Awards Presentation
GAN HAYELED

Truck Day: Beep! Beep! Honk! Honk!
The 24th annual Gan Hayaeled Truck Day is May 14, 9:00–11:30 am, in our parking lot. The children get to climb in, on, and around all sorts of vehicles, from snowplows and dump trucks to fire trucks and motorcycles. All Adas community children are invited. The synagogue parking lot will be closed during that time; we apologize for any inconvenience.

Last Chance to Register for Camp Sweet Summertime!
There are still spots left in Camp Sweet Summertime, the Gan’s summer camp. Sweet Summertime begins June 18 and runs through August 10 in one-week sessions. Throughout the eight weeks of Sweet Summertime you will see smiles and hear laughter from our campers and staff alike. With a broad variety of activities, there is something for everyone.

As a special bonus, our very special Gan teachers work in the summer and make Sweet Summertime a wonderful experience. This year’s theme is: MIDDOT (Jewish values). From a performance by Mainstages “Perform Judaism”), to our very own Israeli-themed color war, to how we are all created in the divine image (b’telem elohim), we have fun and rich experiences in a nurturing, vibrant atmosphere.

Join the Gan for the 2018–2019 School Year!
As of this writing, there are a few spaces in the full-day program that starts in January for our children who turn two in the fall of 2018. Other spots open when families relocate, so don’t hesitate to ask. For more information call the Gan office, 202-362-4491 or visit adasisrael.org/gan.

As the education year comes to a close, we celebrate our students and teachers and the learning that has occurred over the year. On Sunday, May 13, our Gishron—sixth-grade students—and their parents, join together in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary where students of each grade will offer songs, dances, and poems to culminate the year. The performance is followed by treats on the patio to add some sweetness as we separate for the summer. It will be a wonderful day, filled with smiles and warmth.

On Tuesday, May 15, we will close with year with our Ma’alot students, grades 7–12. The community is invited to join us in the Geizur Beit Am for our presentation of awards and celebration of our students. The Ben Cooper Community Youth Service Leadership Award is given to a student for leadership in in the community and among his or her peers. The Herman and Jennie Robbin Awards are given to one middle school and one high school student for commitment to Religious School, acts of hesed, and overall attitude. The Nathan and Rosa Povitch Award is given to a high school student who has excelled in his or her studies or has shown significant interest in Jewish learning. We then wish Nesiyah Tova to our tenth graders as they conclude their year-long study of Israel and prepare to depart on the Abe and Minnie Kaye Israel Experience in June. Afterward all are invited to continue the celebration at a dessert reception in Kay Hall.

In just a few short weeks Adas Israel’s tenth-grade students will depart for Israel. After having spent the year studying, discussing, and learning about Israeli society and culture, our tenth graders have developed a stronger idea of their place in k’lal yisrael, the greater community of the people of Israel. With this new sense of place, we continue to challenge each other about what holds us together and what makes us who we are.

Adas Office Closings

Shavuot Day 1 - Sunday, May 20 - Schools/Offices Closed
Shavuot Day 2 - Monday, May 21 - Schools/Offices Closed
Memorial Day - Monday, May 28 - Schools/Offices Closed
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.

Take Two, Two Takes - When Co-Rabbis Co-Teach
with Rabbis Alexander and Holtzblatt
TUESDAY, MAY 1 @ 7:30 PM
Join Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander for a deep-dive textual exploration of what it means to embrace the particular and universal in a Jewish community. Together, they’ll lead learners of all levels in an equally accessible and sophisticated journey though the treasures our rich tradition has gifted each of us, while also adding a unique Adas-inspired take on we apply our learning to re-imagined religious meaning.

The Text
TUESDAY, MAY 15 @ 7:30 PM
Explore transformative Jewish texts in their original Aramaic and Hebrew with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut. This means that we will break our teeth together and study with no translations but with lots of support from your peers and teachers.

Post-Kiddush Halakhah Class
with Rabbi Aaron Alexander
SATURDAY, MAY 12 @ 1:00 PM
Join us as Rabbi Alexander teaches this month’s text-based class, after Kiddush, using halakhah (Jewish life and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic.

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer
TUESDAY, MAY 8 @ 7:30 PM
Join us as our final scholar of the year, Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, expands on the theme of Bridges and Boundaries. Rabbi Kaunfer, president and CEO of Mechon Hadar, is a distinguished theologian and author who is also co-founder of the independent minyan, Kehilat Hada. *This event will be livestreamed at adasisrael.org/adaslive.

Beginner’s 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 more advanced, these classes will help you reach your next skill level. Contact Marcia Miller at 202-362-4433, ext. 112, for more information.

Boker Or Shabbat Study
SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM
Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.
MAY 5 Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
MAY 12 Rabbi Aaron Alexander
MAY 19 No Boker Or due to Shavuot
MAY 26 No Boker Or due to Memorial Day Weekend

Friday Parsha Study
with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt or Rabbi Aaron Alexander
FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM
Please join us Friday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash for an exclusive look at the weekly parsha. On the first and second Friday of the month Rabbi Holtzblatt will explore the parsha through the lens of Hassidut and mysticism, and on the third and fourth Fridays, Rabbi Alexander will use the Talmud as the prism for the weekly reading.
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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 sanctuary is the synagogue’s largest worship space, led by our inspiring Rabbi and Cantor. The service includes a D’var Torah and sermon by the Rabbi and often includes participation by members and B’nai Mitzvah.

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM): Every Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full Footnotes (Ptzizim) (introductions of Psalms). Shacharit and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a D’var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org. Havurat Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A kiddush follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurat@adasisrael.org.

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

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Mussar, Weekly JMCW meditation and yoga classes offer a home to those who wish to explore embodied spirituality. Our yoga program is a key ingredient in a values-based transformational journey. Intentionality, and self-reflection. Please join us for any or all of these practices that are an integral part of our monthly offerings and a key ingredient in a values-based transformational journey.

Influenced by the Enlightenment and in response to social ills of the time, European Orthodox Jews in the 1800s developed a communal contemplative practice of Mussar focused on various middot (character traits). In his 10th-century book, Duties of the Heart, Rabbi Pakudah described Mussar as the “science of the inner life.” Today, Alan Morinis, founder of the Mussar Institute in New York, defines Mussar as a way of life that “shows us how to realize our highest spiritual potential.” Mussar literally means discipline by offering a variety of opportunities for shared meditations, chants, intentionality, and self-reflection. Please join us for any or all of these practices that are an integral part of our monthly offerings and a key ingredient in a values-based transformational journey.

In essence, we are here on earth for no other purpose than to grow and blossom spiritually—to become holy. Our potential and therefore our goal should be to become as spiritually refined and elevated as possible.

ALAN MORINIS

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 sitts.

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

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

Vinyasa Solar Flow
SUNDAYS @ 11:00 AM–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

Return Again to Shabbat
with Rabbis Holtblatt, Alexander & The Return Again Band
FRIDAY, MAY 11 @ 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, MAY 15 @ 7:00 – 9:00 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, we will gather for a group discussion circle. The milkvah 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 Mivna.

*ANNOUNCEMENT: During the summer months, JMCW will offer a condensed program format. Beginning June 20 and continuing through August, we continue host one JMCW evening offering each week, called “JMCW Meditation & Yoga,” and held on Tuesdays, 6:30–8:00 PM. This will be a combined class of meditation and yoga. Please check the new JMCW Adas webpage for more up-to-date information.

JMCW RECOMMENDS…

Climbing Jacob’s Ladder: One Man’s Journey to Rediscover a Spiritual Jewish Tradition by Alan Morinis
This memoir traces the author’s journey from his secular Jewish upbringing, through Eastern spiritual practices, to a personal crisis that led him back to his own Jewish roots and the discovery of Mussar, a contemplative, insightful, meditative Jewish practice. Although much of this wisdom seemed to be lost after the Holocaust, Morinis found a master directly linked to this tradition to guide him and reinvestigate this Jewish transformative practice.

Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar by Alan Morinis
Everyday Holiness is an accessible and compelling guide to Mussar and a perfect introduction to this practice. Alan Morinis takes this wisdom from the world of Orthodox Judaism of the early 1800s and shows how its relevance to modern life can improve our spiritual well-being and “uncover the brilliant light of the soul.”

You can find these books and others by Alan Morinis and on Mussar at the Adas Library. In addition, our library has a wide selection 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.
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congregational Meeting & Open Board Dinner, June 20
Featuring the Yad Hakavov Award Honoree

6:15 pm: Open Board Dinner in the Gewirz Beit Am
7:30 pm: Annual Congregational Meeting and Yad Hakavov Award in the Biran Beit Midrash

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

Mazal Tov & Yasher Koach!

Mazal and yasher koach to beloved and longtime Adas Israel members Johanna Chann and Randy Levitt. This year’s very worthy recipients of the Breslau-Goldman Award from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. On June 11 the JCRC will honor Johanna and Randy for their extraordinary commitment and service to the broader Jewish community. They are, of course, longtime and committed members of Adas Israel and have been of extraordinary service to our community in numerous ways. Johanna is a past president of Adas Israel and recently served as the year-long chair of our Rabbinic Planning Task Force. The whole community offers them heartfelt thanks and yasher koach to both of them and looks forward to celebrating this very meaningful and well deserved recognition with them.

EVENTS & NEWS

Til Death Do Us Part—
Serving in the Chevra Kadishah Is an Integral Part of Being a Jew

The following article, originally published as part one of a week-long series for JewScholar.org, by Gidon van Emden of Ohr Kodesh, is an eloquent description of Jewish funeral practices and the work of the Adas Israel Bereavement Committee, our Chevra Kadishah. Whether you are inspired to volunteer for tahara (contact Toni Bickart, tobickart@gmail.com), Shminir (contact Wendy Kates, wendy.kates.EJ@go.com), or one of the many other ways we serve bereaved families, such as helping newly bereaved families make funeral arrangements, or “doing good deeds” for our “holy community” of volunteers is always available for our congregational families at times of sorrow and need. Whether you are participating in a loving farewell for a community member who passed away after a long and productive life, or providing solace and support in a tragic situation, you are helping your community to live Jewishly. For the bereaved family members, there is some measure of comfort in knowing that the community comes together to support them in their hour of need, and that the Chevra Kadishah, community becomes family, extending bonds to those most in need, ensuring that their last needs are met. The Chevra Kadishah, through its work, strengthens the congregational fabric.

Joining your local Chevra Kadishah, then, can serve many goals: you will help strengthen your community; you will support the survival of local Jewish customs; you will feel proud of having some extremely humbling experiences; and, most important, you will serve your fellow community members in a way they can never repay. But you know that by sustaining your community, you’re paying forward. Since almost all of the practices surrounding Jewish funerals are a matter of minhag, or custom, each community has its own unique and particular habits. These customs reflect local circumstances or simply “the way this has been done” in any given place. That said, since most of these tasks date back to Talmudic times or earlier, there are some overarching tasks that most Chevras carry out in one way or another:

• Shir: Shminir: Guarding the met (deceased) until the burial, which used to ensure that no vermin or other animals would attack the dead body. Today it serves to honor the person who has passed away.
• Tahara: The task of cleaning the met, while less universal than it used to be, is a long-standing part of the work of the Chevra Kadishah. The deceased is then dressed in tachrichin, the shrouds; or it could be a moment of consolation for the mourners as they return from the minyan. In the house of mourning, so that the immediate relatives sitting shiva can say kaddish.
• Shiva: The Chevra Kadishah may help with ensuring a minyan in the house of mourning, so that the immediate relatives sitting shiva can say kaddish.
• Other support: The Chevra Kadishah might prepare a meal of consolation for the mourners as they return from the burial; it might sew the tachrichin, the shrouds; or it could help provide meals for the mourners throughout the shiva, for instance.

Some people will be better suited to some of these tasks, due to your family situation, job flexibility, birth (e.g., kohenim) etc. But among the many tasks, there is sure to be one that is suitable for you.

6:15 pm: Open Board Dinner in the Gewirz Beit Am

I couldn’t possibly do that mitzvah. But I am very glad other people are able to do it. “I’m not comfortable with death. Please find someone else to help out.” “Me, get involved with that?! But I have young kids!” These are the most common responses I have gotten when asking fellow shul members whether they’d consider getting involved with the Chevra Kadishah. Jewish Funeral Practices Committee: literally, Holy Society in Aramaic. That “someone else doing the mitzvah?” It’s me. I need help. And so does your Chevra Kadishah. The Chevra Kadishah handles Jewish rituals around death and dying. As such, it is a bedrock of the Jewish community, and has been for a very long time. The Chevra Kadishah serves the 99 percent: all Jews are treated equally, no one is turned away, and the work is done in the background, without expectation of recognition or reward. Its tasks are considered chessed shel emet, true kindness (Rashi on Bereshit 47:29), since the beneficiary of the actions cannot thank or reward those who carry them out.

Today, most people are not involved in the operations of the Chevra Kadishah. In the Western world, we have become more distant from death, and that has resulted in, among other things, people being less involved in the ritual surrounding death. In the past, sources seem to indicate that everyone had to belong to a Chevra Kadishah: Chevras (the Aramaic plural would be chevronas kadishayas, so I’ll stick with Chevra) only served their own members, and since every Jew would inevitably require a burial and non-religious options weren’t available, this simply became family, extending bonds to those most in need, helping your community to live Jewishly. For the bereaved family members, there is some measure of comfort in knowing that the community comes together to support them in their hour of need, and that the Chevra Kadishah, community becomes family, extending bonds to those most in need, ensuring that their last needs are met. The Chevra Kadishah, through its work, strengthens the congregational fabric.

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immigrant rights. Join us on Sunday, June 3, 10:00 am–noon, to demonstrate concern for the plight of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in Israel who are threatened with deportation.

Born in Nigeria, Tolu was brought to this country at the age of 14. She had big dreams of becoming an engineer, which she achieved, earning a degree in chemical engineering from Washington and Lee University when she was 21 years old.

However, her status as an undocumented immigrant prevented her from working in her field. Living in the shadows, hiding her immigration status, and fearful that she could be deported to a country less familiar to her than the one that shaped her ideas of democracy, opportunity and civic participation, Tolu survived on what she earned from tutoring, editing, and odd jobs.

Tolu found her voice in 2008, advocating for pro-immigrant legislation at the state and local level, believing that this country can and should do better by all people who call this nation home. In less than a decade, Tolu made the unlikely journey from an unemployed, undocumented chemical engineer to a respected advocate and internationally recognized social entrepreneur, World Economic Forum Migration expert, and member of numerous boards and committees focused on social causes.

She has been a featured speaker at the World Bank, New York University, and the U.S. Congress. And her story and work have been profiled by several media outlets, including NBC, Time, the BBC, and BET. In addition, the Anti-Defamation League named her a 2017 ADL In Concert Against Hate Honoree, stating that her “story is a testimony to the resilience within us all, and will give courage and hope to others who confront inhumanity and injustice.”

Daryl Davis, an award-winning African American musician, actor, author, 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.

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.

**Lev B’Lev Speaker: Daryl Davis**

Saturday, May 5 @ 1:00pm

Daryl Davis, an award-winning African American musician, actor, author, 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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**Lev B’Lev (Heart to Heart) Letter-Writing Team**

Recently, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported a 57% increase of anti-Semitic acts in the United States during 2017. In response to these and other hate crimes, a dedicated group of congregants sends letters of support to show solidarity with the victims. The Lev B’Lev letter-writing team has written letters of support to synagogues and universities that have experienced anti-Semitic actions and individuals who have been the target of hate speech.

Recently, the team sent letters of support to the principal of Parkland High School to express our support for the school community in its time of crisis. Organizations that have received our notes have written notes how supported they feel. Lev B’Lev is a joint project of the Social Action and Hesed committees. If you would like more information, or to join the Lev B’Lev letter-writing team, please contact Ruth Kleinrock, ruthkleinrock@gmail.com.

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**Social Action Committee**

Adas Members at SOME, President’s Day 2018

Future Adas-SOME Meal Opportunities:

Breakfast and lunch on Mondays, September 3, October 8, and November 12.

Social Action at Adas Israel is a many-branched tree whose limbs hold our six teams and the Social Action Committee’s many efforts, ranging from direct service in homelessness, housing, and refugee resettlement, to social and community activism around housing, climate change, gun violence, acts of hatred, Muslim and African American relations, and refugee and immigrant rights. Join us on Sunday, June 3, 10:00 am–noon, as our incredible teams share what they’ve been doing and how you can get involved.

- Hear words of Torah from Rabbi Alexander.
- Learn about the work of our six teams and how you can participate.
- Listen to the inspiring story of Tolu Olubunmi, an undocumented immigrant and Dreamer.
- Enjoy refreshments provided by the Hesed Committee.

**Social Action Committee Open House**

with Special Guest Speaker Tolu Olubunmi: Dreamer, Advocate, & Activist

June 3, 10 am to Noon in the Biran Beit Midrash

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Recently, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported a 57% increase of anti-Semitic acts in the United States during 2017. In response to these and other hate crimes, a dedicated group of congregants sends letters of support to show solidarity with the victims. The Lev B’Lev letter-writing team has written letters of support to synagogues and universities that have experienced anti-Semitic actions and individuals who have been the target of hate speech.

Recently, the team sent letters of support to the principal of Parkland High School to express our support for the school community in its time of crisis. Organizations that have received our notes have written notes how supported they feel. Lev B’Lev is a joint project of the Social Action and Hesed committees. If you would like more information, or to join the Lev B’Lev letter-writing team, please contact Ruth Kleinrock, ruthkleinrock@gmail.com.
With Judy and Debby as co-chairs, the Inclusion Task Force played an active role to ensure that Vision of Renewal renovations incorporated access for all into every aspect of synagogue life. Task Force members worked to encourage sensitivity to the needs of all community members. We noticed how much more accessible the new Charles E. Smith Sanctuary became, but how many of us focused on whether people in wheelchairs could make it wheelchair accessible? Did they have all the support they needed to be able to become b’nai mitzvah? Did they have all the support they needed to be able to become mezzuzot? Or the effect of tingling metal hangers on those with sensory sensitivities? Or whether meditation and yoga programs offered alternatives for participants with limited function? What about children with special educational needs? Did they have all the support they needed to be able to become b’nai mitzvah?

The Inclusion Task Force continues to pose such questions. But, equally important, its members have been informing all who are interested in being part of Adas that we are an inclusive community. We want people to be aware of the steps we are taking to make everyone feel welcome. That is what Jewish Disability Awareness Month was all about. Now, it is a year-long task of joy.

When Debby became president of Adas Israel, Marcie Goldstein stepped up to co-chair the Task Force. Now Barbara Cline and Ross Eisenman have taken over as co-chairs. All have provided leadership in participating in a national cohort organized by the Ruderman Family Foundation and the United Synagogue leadership in participating in a national cohort organized by the Ruderman Family Foundation and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism’s Inclusion Initiative. We continue to expand our definition of inclusion with the most important practice of all: deepening our relationships with each other and seeing the Godliness in every member of our community.

Here are a few examples of the accommodations that Adas has made available:
- Quiet room with minimal sensory stimulation
- Sign-language interpreter
- Gender-neutral restroom
- Large-print sudirrim and machzorim
- Accessible birnha and adjustable reading table
- Full-time developmental support coordinator in Gan HaYeled
- Allergy-friendly kiddush (Adas now provides a nut-free environment)
- Expanded wheelchair and partner seating in sanctuaries
- Access to livestreaming of popular events through any computer, laptop, or mobile device
- Hearing loops and Bluetooth-enabled hearing devices
- Noise-cancelling headphone lending library
- Renovation of the mikvah to make it wheelchair accessible

The work of the Inclusion Task Force is hard work. We are always alert to the need to remove all barriers to participation. We welcome any and all suggestions. Contact us at inclusion@adasisrael.org or call our staff Liaison Naomi Malka, 202-362-4433, ext. 142, with any questions and to get involved.

We are fortunate to have three generations of Halpers here at Adas! Let’s start off with introductions: Lakshmi Halper, mother of Sheila and Nina and a travel agent specializing in India and Cuba; Sheila, mother of nine-year-old Sanchi, who attends the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School (formerly JPDS), and senior director, external relations at the HealthWell Foundation, a national nonprofit that helps America’s underserved afford their medical treatments; and Nina, mother of three-year-old Raelie, a member of the Zebrot class at the Gan, and a multimedia communications professional who is currently communications advisor at AARP.

Lakshmi, when did you first join Adas? And why did you choose this congregation?

I think it would be easier for me to explain it to me. I came to Washington from India in the sixties. I was looking for a rabbi who would convert me to Judaism and a friend introduced me to Stanley Rabinowitz who then was the Rabbi at Adas Israel. He agreed to take me on as a pupil, and I studied with him until I was ready for conversion. I was his first convert.

It was only natural that, when I married, this was the synagogue to which we would belong. Then followed baby naming, religious school for my girls, b’not mitzvah, and confirmations. The last ritual he officiated over was the funeral of my husband, Bob. So when I was a widow and I will always remember how important he was in my lives.

I left Adas when my kids went to college and spent a few years wondering around looking for an alternative synagogue. I realized my heart was at Adas, so back I came with my daughters a few years ago. Every room there has a memory for me both joyful and painful. I have never regretted the choice.

Sheila and Nina: The building has changed a lot since you were here. What were some of your favorite memories growing up at Adas (besides the amazing Confirmation pictures we have of you), and why was it important for you to send your own children to Adas?

Nina: We have a great memory of my confirmation class, studying under Cantor Saltzman, who pushed me to my limit and had me sing a solo as a soprano when I really am an alto. We also had permanent seats in the main sanctuary with our names on them, and I loved sitting in those red velvet seats that I couldn’t make stay down when I was small. More important, I am so happy to see my son thriving at the Gan. He started as full-time student in the Dubin class when he had just turned two. The warmth we received from his teachers made his transition easy for him and for me. Over the past two years he has gone from a very little participant as the youngest in his class to an active participant who shows some of the younger kids the ropes and comes home sharing stories he learns about the Jewish holidays and singing Jewish songs every day.

It’s so great that you all live in the same city. How often do you spend time together and what are your favorite things to do together as a family?

tradition is so important to our family. We have so many last memories at Adas, including very special memories of our father. When we think of the milestones in our family’s life, we think of Adas. We want the same for our children and want to give them the foundation that we received and set them on their own paths. At a time in our lives when community, spirituality, and inclusiveness, not to mention safety, is so important to us, there’s honestly no better place in our minds than Adas. We love the infusion of music at the Return Again services and the top-notch, creative programming events. The fact that our kids can spend hours upon hours on their own enjoying the activities and exploring the building with their friends is priceless.

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Continued on page 35 . . .

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SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

Don’t miss our annual May sale!
Now is the time to buy that mezuzah case, menorah, seder plate, piece of jewelry, or anything else you’ve been eyeing.

During the entire month of May, almost everything in the shop is reduced 25%. And be sure to see our rack of tallitot offered at a 35% discount!
Finally, check out our cart of 40% off sale items!

*No discounts taken on greeting cards, ebbides, kosher kits, or children’s books. Already reduced items are not reduced further. All sales are FINAL.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

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.

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 10:00 AM, FUNGER HALL, JEWISH LAW & HISTORY

Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 8, in Funger Hall, as community leader and scholar Norman Shore leads a discussion about conversion in Jewish law and tradition. As Shavuot approaches, we will read from The Book of Ruth and other texts about how we should respond to “outsiders” who want to join the Jewish community. What commitments are made by gerei tsedek (righteous converts), and historically, in terms of action, faith, and national identity when they convert?

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, please contact Marilyn Cooper at MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com. Next session: June 12.

Take a Walk!

MONDAY, MAY 14
SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT

Meet at Waterfront Metro at 6:00 pm. Contact: Rona Walters. 202-744-2854 or ronawalters@gmail.com. Next date: June 11 at a different location.

Sisterhood Knotting, Sewing, & Craft Circle

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16 @ 7:30 PM
YOUTH LOUNGE

“The work of our hands,” whether for creativity, for sustenance, or for charity, is a long-standing part of our Jewish tradition. This spring, we have added talks and texts to some of our meetings; now we invite you all, whether or not you knit, sew, or sing, to our May 16 meeting for a brief musical interlude. Cantor Arianne Brown will showcase Yiddish folk songs about sewing and that show vignettes of life in the Eastern European shtetl and on New York’s Lower East Side. If you have questions, contact Lesley Frost, lesleyhost0@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sisterhood Closing Event:
Human Trafficking by Jewish and Other Traffickers

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 @ 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Sisterhood will present Orna Wolf-Levy and Andrea Powell in a presentation and discussion of Human Trafficking by Jewish and Other Traffickers. Orna Wolf-Levy will discuss the relatively unknown phenomenon of sex trafficking in Eastern Europe during the mass migration of 1881–1924, focusing on Jewish women trafficked out of Great Britain to South America by Jewish traffickers. Joining her will be Andrea Powell, who founded FAIRgirls, http://www.tairgirls.org/ who will offer insight on the current reality of human trafficking and further the discussion about local and international solutions.

In honor of the Giving of the Torah on Shavuot, consider donating to 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 Judea 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 all year round to benefit Torah Fund, see http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/.

Shavuot Greetings from Sisterhood

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

ruth & simon albert
sisterhood gift shop

Don’t miss our annual May sale! Now is the time to buy that mezuzah case, menorah, seder plate, piece of jewelry, or anything else you’ve been eyeing.

During the entire month of May, almost everything in the shop is reduced 25%. And be sure to see our rack of tallitot offered at a 35% discount!
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The Chronicle
Every year at Shavuot, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, we encounter one of the most fascinating, mind-bending, hard-to-wrap-your-head-around concepts in Judaism. At the transcendent moment at Mount Sinai—when God’s voice thundered the words of the covenant—ALL Jews were present, according to Jewish teaching. The awestruck crowd at the foot of the fiery, blazing mountain encompassed not merely the Hebrew slaves who had escaped Egypt, but all Jews who would exist in future times. Rather wonderfully, this age-old belief is succinctly captured in the name of a 21st-century Jewish dating site: SawYouAtSinai.

Author Dara Horn says this Jewish notion of the elasticity of time, of the merging of the past with the present, was part of the inspiration for her latest novel. Eternal Life alternates between first-century Jerusalem and present-day New York. In Jerusalem, Rachel, the daughter of a scribe, spends her days as her father’s messenger, delivering scrolls and messages to the Temple and around the city. She and a young Temple priest, Elazar, embark on a love affair that leads them to take a desperate vow before Elazar’s father, the High Priest. The vow renders them both immortal. While thousands perish during the brutal Roman sacking of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., they survive, teaming up to sneak the sage Yochanan Ben Zakkai out of Jerusalem in a coffin. With the Temple in ruins, Ben Zakkai, an actual historical figure, forges a new path for Judaism.

In Rachel’s contemporary story, she is a 2000-year-old woman who regards her immortality as a curse. Over the centuries, she has cared for numerous husbands and children and seen them all die while she continued to live (unbeknownst to her families; each time she “dies” she regenerates elsewhere, once again a young woman ready to start her next life). Periodically Elazar reappears; Rachel loves him, but also hates him for an old betrayal.

Benjamin’s novel begins with four young Jewish siblings on an adventure in New York’s Lower East Side in 1969. They visit a fortuneteller who privately reveals to each child his or her death date. Benjamin then traces each sibling’s life, as each reacts to the prophecy—Simon runs away to San Francisco, embracing an exuberant gay lifestyle before falling victim to AIDS; Klara becomes a professional magician-illusionist famous for her death-defying stunts; Daniel, a military doctor, is determined to find and confront the fortuneteller; and Varya becomes a scientist researching (of course) longevity.

Reviewers have praised the novel for its “elegant ambiguity”; the reader is never sure whether the fortuneteller was truly clairvoyant or whether the death-date predictions simply influenced the siblings’ life choices and became self-fulfilling. How different would the siblings’ lives have been if they had never met the fortuneteller?
**BIRTHS**

Casper Rex Gilman, son of Rachel Jonas Gilman & Adam Gilman, was born February 16.
David Warren Rusch Rubenstein, son of Arie Rubenstein & Liz Scheier, was born March 8.
Judah Zev Heckerling, son of Jess & Jeremy Heckerling, was born March 13.
Kai Jacob Brendler, son of Amy & Michael Brendler, was born March 21.
Isabelle Sophie Coombs, great granddaughter of Ruth Snyder, was born February 21.

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

**B’NAI MITZVAH**

Penelope Landau, May 12

Penelope, a seventh grader at Maret, celebrates her bat mitzvah with her parents, Emily and Paul; her sister, Zoe; and her extended family. Penelope loves reading, art, and music, and playing the violin has been an important aspect of her life. For her mitzvah project she will be working with Hungry for Music (https://hungryformusic.org) to collect used instruments and donations so that other young people will be able to experience the joy of music lessons, too.

Charlie Sussia, May 26

Charles Michael, son of Jimmy and Anne Sussia, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School in Washington. Charlie began his Jewish education as a Puppy in the Gan and has continued in the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. This past summer he traveled to Israel, where, in addition to visiting family, he explored archeological sites, climbed Masada, went to the Dead Sea, and toured the Mishkan Hafechelet talit/tefillin factory in Be’er Sheva, where he purchased a talit and tefillin for his bar mitzvah. For his mitzvah project, Charlie is working to help the homeless. He celebrates his bar mitzvah with his sister Rachel, grandmothers, aunts and uncles, and many cousins from near and far.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

Aaron G. Baldinger, son of Joseph and Jami Baldinger, was recently engaged to Sarah Passick of Manhattan, NY. A wedding is planned in New York City for 2019.

**We wish the newly engaged couple and their families a hearty mazal tov.**

**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Mazal tov to ... Simon Kirschenbaum, who won the 36th annual Washington Informer Spelling Bee for the District of Columbia. The winning word was myocardiogram.

Stuart Butler, who will become chair of the Board of Directors of Mary’s Center, a Community Health Center that provides health care, family literacy, and social services to individuals whose needs too often are unmet by the public and private systems. Mary’s Center provides access to health care services regardless of participants’ ability to pay.

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The Chronicle
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**Ada Fund**
In Memory Of: David Bubbe by Diane Rosenberg.

**Anna Frank House Fund**
By: David & Toni Bickert, Joel & Berrin Breitau, Rabbi Charles Feintuch, Dina Feigeln, Stuart Horn & Marian Fox, Sofia Lang, Roger & Shelia Meyer, Natalie Palot, Sarah Shapiro, Paul Waltman, Susan P. Willens.
In Honor Of: Ari Strauss by Heather Moran. Andrew Meyers by Beth Simon.

**Anna Frank House Fund**
By: Haim & Naomi Maika, Shirley Novochomitz & Martin Brownstein, Stanley M. Salus, Peter Saffin.

**Bereavement Fund**
In Memory Of: Erad Danzigler by Arnold Danzigler. Alden Boorstein by Fredranki.

**Bernard & Rita Segerman Endowment Fund**
In Honor Of: Will Segerman becoming a bar mitzvah by Renée & Roger Fendrich.

**Board Sunshine Fund**
In Appreciation Of: Ricki Gerger by Janet Schieppi.

**B’Yahad Special Needs Fund**
In Memory Of: Sherrill Brown. Cantor Art in appreciation of her warm welcome by Eileen Hinkes.

**Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund**
In Honor Of: Cantor Arienne Brown by Larry & Melanie Naatouf. Cantor Art in appreciation of her warm welcome by Eileen Hinkes.

**Daily Minyan Fund**
In Memory Of: Philip Silberman by Janet Silberman.
In Memory Of: Wilma Paue by Rae Grad & many Shiffners. Linda Greenberg by Richard & Susan Uglen & Gabrielle Noyem Thompson by Rae Brooks.

**Dara Kaufman Children’s Program Fund**
In Honor Of: Minna Kaufman’s 100th birthday by Dale Kaufman & Stephen Haskin.

**Estella & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund**
In Honor Of: Sarah Porter becoming a bat mitzvah by Renée & Roger Fendrich.

**Frances & Leonard Barka Social Action Endowment Fund**

**Fund for the Future**
In Memory Of: Roslyn Lavin by Judith & Russell Smith.

**Garden of the Righteous**
In Loving Memory Of: Rhoda Albon by David Connick.
In Memory Of: Charles Silverman by Joseph Silverman.

**Gelber**
In Memory Of: Harry Linowitz’s 90th birthday by Cookie Kenston.

**Hannah Goldsmith DIScretionary Fund**
In Appreciation Of: Hannah Rachel Goldsmith by Janet Schieppi.

**Heade & Bilkus’ Chalim Fund**

**Lillian & Daniel Erinz Fund for Ritual Objects**
In Memory Of: Phyllis Margolis by Paula Goldman. Dr. Joel S. Ganz by Rhoda Ganz.

**Marilyn & Stewart Tucker Program Endowment Fund**
In Memory Of: Marcy Miller by Marilyn Tucker.
Men’s Club Anshe Torah Fund In Memory Of: Joseph C. Cohen by Shirley Cohen.

**Mikveh Fund**
In Honor Of: Our wedding by Rachel Karas & Zach Cohen.

**Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund**
In Memory Of: Morris Hariton by Carl & Nancy Gavez.

**Shelley Reemer Gan Ha’Aleed Enrichment Fund**
In Memory Of: Don Tracy.

**Siddur Le Shalom Prayerbook Fund**
In Honor Of: Lisa Schnall’s birthday by Mr. & Mrs. Schnall.

**Sisterhood Donations**

**Social Action Fund**
In Memory Of: David Buring by Benjamin Buring. Edward L. Dublin by Luis Fingerhut.

**Stanley & Weeda Viener Memorial Fund**
In Honor Of: Birth of my great-granddaughter, Isabella Sophie Coombs, by Ruff Snyder.

**Sue Linus Allen Memorial Music Fund**
In Memory Of: Linda Greenberg by Cindy Eaton.

**Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund**
In Memory Of: Rabbi Allann Langner. Mimi Leib by Bill Levenson.

**Teedak Fund**

**USY/Tikkun Olam Fund**
In Memory Of: Levan Gilsimian becoming a bar mitzvah by Phyllis Minnich.

**Yisker/Yahrzeit Fund**

**Youth Department Activities Fund**

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**SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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**Lakshmi:** We love to travel. As kids, Ithem around the world and we love to play tennis together. Most important, we love to cook and eat—one of life’s pleasures. My grandchildren are following in our footsteps with food and cooking and have very sophisticated taste.

**Nina & Sheila:** We see each other as a family at least once a week and we talk every day. We love to cook and eat, so food is a central part of the family. Planned or unplanned, our mom will often say, come over for the spicy matzah ball soup or dal/chicken curry. Believe it or not, she still throws regular dinner parties to this day! We have traveled all over the world as a family and continue to keep up that tradition.

**Nina,** you are a published author and the second Ma Tovu in a row to have had a dog named Saba. You wrote about Saba’s adventures in Saba the Long-Legged Goofy (mixed) Saluki. What was your inspiration to write this book? And for any rising writers, do you have any tips or tricks you can share about writing a children’s book?

I wrote the story of Saba when he was a puppy when it became apparent that this was not your usual dog, though I didn’t find an illustrator and publish until many years later. Saba was one of 39 puppies rescued from the Hebrew conflict in 2006. When I met him, I had no idea what a Saluki was, but quickly fell in love with his soulful eyes and learned that he was a “royal” breed. He not only grew into a towering giant, but he also had quirks that kept family and friends in hysterics. Given that I was stopped on the street every day by curious folks who wanted to know what he was and tell me that he was “the biggest dog they had ever seen,” I thought it would be fun to bring his story to life and use it to encourage animal adoption, share conversations among being different, and give children the ability to meet the real character. (You can read more about his story at www.fagiolinapress.com).

To rising writers: While I initially started to write to publishers, I felt impatient with the process and needed to get the story out sooner, given my dog’s age. It was when my son was born and I was home for a few months that I decided to publish it myself and started collaborating with a phenomenal illustrator based in Serbia. This was fun and exciting, but not an easy process by any means. With self-publishing, you have to be prepared to do everything on your own (design, layout, marketing, sales, and more) and there are details that I could have never known until I went through the process. My advice though—stick to your vision no matter what, even if people are trying to talk you out of putting a dog on two legs. I can do it, so can you.

Later this month we will be celebrating Shavuot. For this holiday we are supposed to stay up all night studying and eat dairy. What would be your dairy treat of choice?

**Nina:** I am partial to Talenti berries and cream. Lakshmi: kefir—any flavor; Sanchi: mango ice cream or lassi. Rafael: ice cream—any kind; Sheila: I prefer savory, so really good cheese!
UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINE—

July/August:
Thursday, May 31, at noon