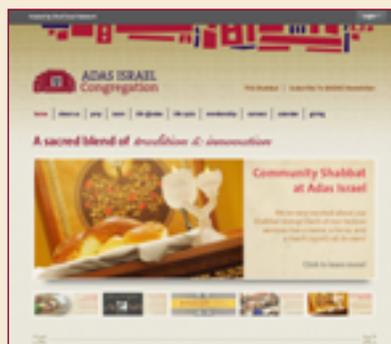


Adas Israel Congregation May/Iyar–Sivan

CHRONICLE



The new and fully interactive adasisrael.org

my**Adas**experience

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":

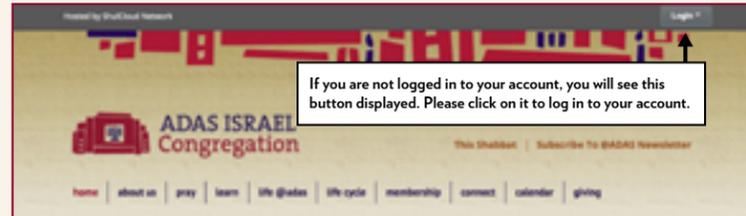
If you run into any problems or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff at adasoffice@adasisrael.org or 202.362.4433. Please note, for two adult households, you will each have your own personal login, of which are both tethered to one connected household account.



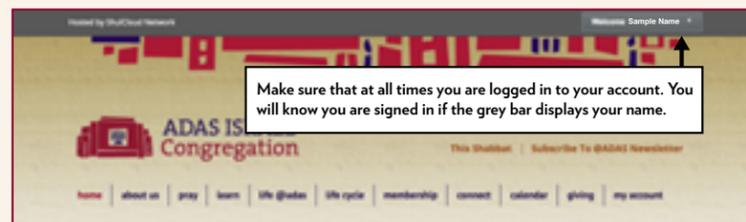
How will I login moving forward?

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.

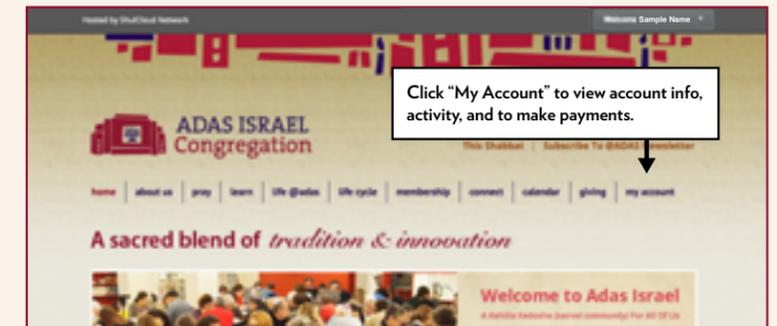


How do I set up payments?

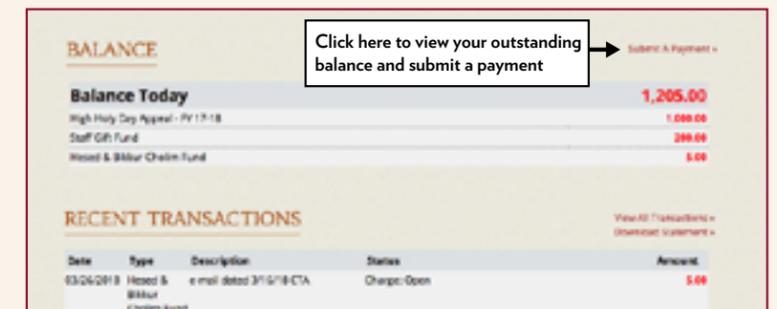
My Profile: Your Personal Account Page

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:

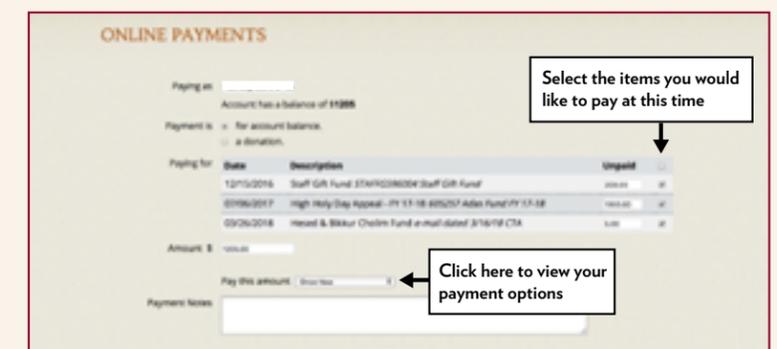
1. **Access Your Profile Page**
When you are logged in, the last tab on the right of the website navigation will say "my account." Click on it, and you will be taken to your profile page:



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



From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT



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. But somewhere along the way, I began to lose patience with people who said such things. I had no desire to engage them; I'd had enough and I just wanted to be mad. I'd be right there demanding the apology and the firing or the resignation, simultaneous steps I believed would assuage my anger. But even when my desires were fulfilled, I carried around a thirst for revenge. I gravitated to others who used words of condemnation rather than conciliation and education, and I had no interest in helping anyone understand why what they'd said was wrong.

While such memories live near my consciousness, they and many others sprang to life recently when a member of the DC

City Council told the world that the Rothschilds control not only the World Bank and the U.S. government, but also our climate. Like you, of course, I knew about the first two, but that third one was a surprise. I posted something quasi-nasty on Facebook and conversation ensued. I ignored comments about Jewish leaders and organizations that were reaching out, and found comfort in tons of "He should resign" and lots of "Where's the apology?" responses. But for some mysterious reason, my heart just wasn't in it this time. I was overwhelmingly sad, but not particularly angry.

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.



Clergy Corner

RABBI LAUREN HOLTZBLATT



A heartfelt thank you to Rabbis Elianna Yolkut & Herb Schwartz for all of their extraordinary commitment, Torah, and support this past year at Adas Israel. Yasher Koach!

This year has been a time of transition and growth for Rabbi Alexander and I as we have entered our new positions at Adas. We are thrilled to be welcoming Rabbi Sarah Krinsky as our assistant rabbi in July. As we head toward expanding our clergy team, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this past year.



Thank you,
Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

We were outrageously fortunate to have two incredible teachers and rabbis in our community, both of whom stepped up to help us this year. Beginning in September Rabbi Elianna Yolkut and Rabbi Herb Schwartz agreed to take on teaching, counseling, service leading, preaching, work with our conversion students, and officiating at funerals when needed.

To say that this community is grateful beyond measure is an understatement. Rabbi Yolkut added her gift of Torah in *Boker Or*, the advanced study class, downtown study, and the conversion class. Her teaching has been so well received that she was asked to teach an additional text class in April. Rabbi Yolkut has added to the depth of Torah that is swirling around the *Beit Midrash* at Adas and has been a spiritual guide to many who are craving the joining of textual wisdom with real, everyday life.

Rabbi Schwartz, or as we call him in the rabbinic suite—the rabbis' Rabbi, has brought so much to our team this year. He has counseled, taught, worked with our conversion candidates, and officiated at many funerals this year. He has also offered guidance and loving support to so many in our community.

Rabbis Yolkut and Schwartz both deserve our praise and gratitude as we end this year of transition.

In *Pirket Avot 1:6*, Yehoshua Ben Perachiah says: "Make for yourself a teacher, squire for yourself a friend, and judge every person with merit." In a new commentary on *Avot* (p. 24), Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum writes: "The Hebrew word literally means 'to make' and thus suggests that one must actively and consciously select a teacher, rather than passively following whoever happens to be present."



Thank you,
Rabbi Herb Schwartz

We selected these two teachers, not because they are in our community, but because of the extraordinary and unique gifts they both possess. May they feel our gratitude for what each has given, and may we continue to grow from strength to strength.

SHAVUOT

BEGINS SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 19

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS



"The Late Lounge"

70 FACES OF REVELATION
SHIVIM PANIM SHEL 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 divine diversity 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 *s'firat haomer* (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 experience of counting.

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 anew 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

2018/5778

Erev Shavuot, Saturday, May 19, Light candles at 8:59 pm

7:15 pm • Torah Study with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander

8:45 pm • *Ma'ariv*

9:00 pm • *Kiddush*

9:15 pm • Outside Torah Experience Opens

9:15 pm • Break-out Study Sessions

10:30 pm • **Something New!** Join Rabbis Alexander and Holtzblatt on the patio for a Communal Moment of (Spontaneous) Blessings - We need them!

Shavuot Day 1, Sunday, May 20, Light candles at 9:00 pm

9:15 am • Combined Charles E. Smith Sanctuary & Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* Service

6:00 pm • *Mincha/Ma'ariv/Kabbalat Chag*

Shavuot Day 2, Monday, May 21

9:15 am • All invited to the service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

11:00 am • *Yizkor*

1:30 pm • *Mincha*

*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 *Sefirat HaOmer*—the counting of the *omer*. In Temple times, the *Sefirah* 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 *Sefirah* 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 *gimel*, 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—instructed his disciples to observe his *yarzheit*—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 Rabbis 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 Schwab, 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 interests 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 asstrabbisearch@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.

Visions of Israel

A Celebration of Culture & Creativity

Starring:
ISRABAND

Also Featuring:
Theater J with
Tasting Menu

Also Featuring:
Kesem Israeli
Dance Troupe

Also Featuring:
Cantor Arianne Brown
with Adas Israel's Kolot
& Flash Choir

The annual spring concert at Adas Israel

Presented by Cantor Arianne Brown & the Musical Moments Committee

Sunday, June 3 @ 7pm

**ADAS ISRAEL
Congregation**

We celebrate Israel's 70th birthday with an immersive experience of Israeli music, theater, dance, and visual arts, followed by an Israeli dessert reception!

ISRABAND is an Israeli cover band that specializes in providing an authentic, refreshing experience of a variety of the biggest hits of Israeli music culture.

Theater J presents *Tasting Menu* by acclaimed Israeli playwright Schlomo Moshkovitz — *machatunim* (in-laws) with different mindsets come together to plan a wedding — a modern comedy with a realistic look at Israeli families

Kesem — our neighborhood teen Israeli dance troupe — will give a performance so inspiring that we will be ready to dance with them at our reception.

To Order Tickets: AdasIsrael.org/MusicalMoments or call 202-362-4433

\$18 General Admission
\$36 Premier Seating
\$100 Supporter (Premier Seating & Formal Acknowledgment)
\$360 Sponsor (Premier Seating & Formal Acknowledgment)

Children under the age of b'nai mitzvah are free!

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!

DC Klezmer Workshop

Are you a musician who always wanted to play klezmer music? Does your foot start tapping every time you hear Yiddish songs? Do you want to learn the differences among a Bulgar, a Sher, a Zhok, and a Khosidl?

Then you will want to join us for the next DC Klezmer Workshop at Adas Israel on May 6, 2:00–4:00 pm, with visiting master klezmer musician Susan Abbe Hoffman Lankin-watts. The workshop is open to all levels of musicians, whether you read music or not.

Questions?

Contact howard.ungar@hotmail.com

Save The Date!

Dance Party @ Adas Israel
Sunday, June 10 @ 2:00–5:00 pm

New Memorial Plaques Dedicated at Passover Yizkor

In loving remembrance, the following names have been recently inscribed on the Memorial Boards in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, and formally dedicated at Passover: Dorothy Adelman, Geraldine Adelman, Sol Adelman, Flora Atkin, Freda Buckhantz, Robert S. Buckhantz, Ruth Eanet, Eric Ehrenberg, Robert Peter Jacobs, Faina Khodak, Sylvia Racoosin Pines, Toni Ritzenberg, Loretta Rosenthal, Zelda Rosenthal, Lorain L. Rothstein, Aaron Samban, Rosa Samban, and Phyllis Zweig. **May their memory always be for a blessing.**

Memorial plaques are a traditional and dignified way of honoring your dear departed. Each memorial plaque bears the name and yearzeit date of a loved one. The memorial light adjoining the plaque is illuminated on every yearzeit and for every Yizkor service. These plaques are truly perpetual memorials. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call Marcia Miller at the synagogue office, 202-362-4433.



Education & Youth @ ADAS ISRAEL

From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH ROSENBAUM



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. The program will be followed by a dessert reception in Kay Hall.

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 | Lehrich, Talya |
| Berger, Aden | Leifman, Ethan |
| Carvalho Loeb, Miriam | Lerner, Samuel |
| Dunn, Avery | Marr, Rebecca |
| Dunn, Maren | Miranda, Angel |
| Himmelfarb, Joseph | Molyneux, Madeline |
| Kagan, Maya | Neufeld, Ethan |
| Kanter-Goodell, Gabriel | Roskes, Zevi |
| Klein, Arielle | Rosten, Daniel |
| Knishkowsky, Aaron | Sacks, Dylan |
| Koenig, Mimi | Stutman-Shaw, Caleb |
| Kotelanski, Maia | Weinstein, Eden |
| Kupfer, Andrew | |



CELEBRATING SHERI BROWN & HER YEARS OF SERVICE!

The Gan and larger Adas community have been so fortunate to have Sheri Brown serving our students and families these past seven years, and we are proud to share the following invitation from the GPA to mark your calendars to come and celebrate Sheri and her wonderful time here.

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

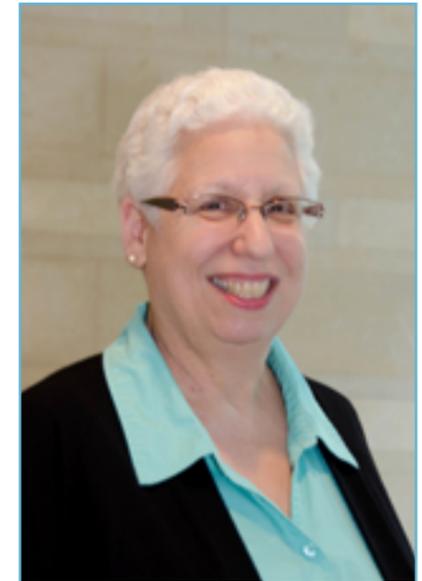
On Friday, May 18th at 5PM, Adas Israel and the GPA will be hosting a Garden Party / Happy Hour (kid-friendly) for Sheri, who will be wrapping up her time as Director of the Gan. This event will come right before the family Shabbat service and dinner, which will start at 6PM. So please save the date!

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 HaYeled 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 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'tzelem 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 Gewirz *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 Povich 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.



YOUTH GROUP & PROGRAMS

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 *khal 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.

At the same time, the larger religious school community explored Israel in a different way through our Yom Israel programming. During a day full of games, crafts, song, and dance, religious school students of all ages learned that Israel isn't just a place on a map but a live, colorful, and complex place. Like our tenth graders, our younger students learned the important lesson of *kol yisrael arevim zeh lazeh*, that all of the people of Israel are obligated to one another. This commitment is forged not only through solemn words, but through food, excitement, and movement. What obligates and connects us to each other is hardly delineated by international borders but rather by the sense of collectivity that is nurtured and upheld by what we share.



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.

MAY MAKOMDC SCHOLAR:

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 *minyán*, Kehilat Hada.

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



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 through 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.

ONGOING LEARNING:



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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 14 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:15 am Adult Education Class 11:00 am Ben Shalva Workshop 5:00 pm JTS Evening of Learning (offsite) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	30 15 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1 16 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 10:15 am Restorative Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC: Take Two, Two Takes - When Co-Rabbis Co-Teach	2 17 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	3 18 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	4 19 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service with Rabbi Alexander 8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinner	5 PESACH EMOR 20 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service/YP Shabbat Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 8:45 pm Havdalah
6 21 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:15 am Adult Education Class 10:30 am JMCW Class: Wise Aging 11:00 am Ben Shalva Workshop 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	7 22 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	8 23 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Weekday Torah w/ Sisterhood 10:15 am JMCW Restorative Yoga 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (offsite) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC: Rabbi Elie Kaunfer	9 24 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	10 25 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	11 26 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander 8:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner	12 PARSHAT BEHAR-BECHUKOTAI 27 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah: Penelope Landau Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha 1:15 pm MakomDC Shabbat Learning 8:52 pm Havdalah
13 28 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Awakening Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	14 29 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	15 1 Sivan 7:15 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 10:15 am JMCW Restorative Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JMCW: Rosh Chodesh Workshop 7:30 pm MakomDC: The Text	16 2 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm Sisterhood Sewing Circle 8:15 pm JSC Class	17 3 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	18 4 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary 5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Cantor Brown 6:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service	19 PARSHAT BEMIDBAR EREV SHAVUOT 5 Sivan 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am "Return Again" Shabbat Service with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 7:15 pm Clergy-Led Torah Study 8:45 pm Shabbat Maariv Service 8:58 pm Havdalah 9:15 pm Outdoor Torah Experience
20 SHAVUOT DAY 1 6 Sivan 9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Service D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 6:00 pm Mincha/Maariv/Kabbalat Chag Service 9:00 pm Light Candles	21 SHAVUOT DAY 2 7 Sivan 9:15 am Smith Service w/ All Invited Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt/Yizkor 12:45 pm Mincha	22 8 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 10:15 am JMCW Restorative Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	23 9 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	24 10 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	25 11 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	26 PARSHAT NASO 12 Sivan 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah: Charlie Suissa Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 9:04 pm Havdalah
27 13 Sivan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	28 14 Sivan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	29 15 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:15 am JMCW Restorative Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	30 16 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	31 17 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1 18 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service 8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinner	2 PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTTECHA 19 Sivan 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah: Talia Ehrenberg Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 9:09 pm Havdalah

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services.

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

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

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. 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).

JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington



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

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 or instruction and is also used as a Hebrew word for “ethics.” It includes transformative spiritual practices, welcomes all levels of Jewish literacy and focuses not just on text-based Jewish learning and actions, but also on the “intentions and inner life of the heart.” At JMCW, we build on the mindfulness elements of *Mussar* 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.

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.



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

UPCOMING JMCW SERVICES, PROGRAMS, & WORKSHOPS



Return Again to *Shabbat*

with Rabbis Holtzblatt, 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 *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.*

***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 Google Calendar on the JMCW Adas webpage for more up-to-date information.



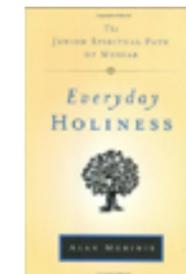
The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW) offers services, programs, and workshops that help deepen contemplative practices as part of our individual and communal religious and spiritual lives. Watch this space each month to follow these JMCW offerings. Visit our Adas web page at adasisrael.org/jmcw,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

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 reinvigorate 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.

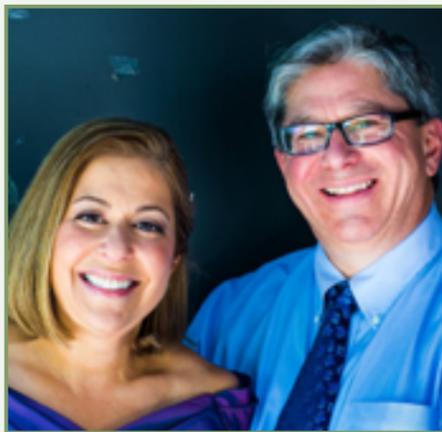


SAVE THE DATE

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

6:15 pm: Open Board Dinner in the Gewirz Beit Am
**7:30 pm: Annual Congregation Meeting and
Yad Hakavod 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 tov and *yasher koach* to beloved and longtime Adas Israel members Johanna Chanin 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.



'Til Death Do Us Part—

Serving in the Chevra Kaddisha Is an Integral Part of Being a Jew

The following article, originally published as part one of a week-long series for *JewSchool.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 Kaddisha*. Whether you are inspired to volunteer for *tahara* (contact Toni Bickart, tonibickart@gmail.com), *Shmira* (contact Wendy Kates, wendy.kates.30@gmail.com), or one of the many other ways we serve bereaved families, such as helping newly bereaved families make funeral arrangements (contact Edie Hessel, edith_hessel@yahoo.com), you will understand how our "holy community" of volunteers is always available for our congregational families at times of sorrow and need.

"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 Kaddisha*, (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 Kaddisha*. The *Chevra Kaddisha* 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 Kaddisha* 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 *chesed shel emet*, true kindness (Rashi on *Bereishit* 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 Kaddisha*. 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 rituals surrounding death. In the past, sources seem to indicate that everyone had to belong to a *Chevra Kaddisha*: *Chevras* (the Aramaic plural would be *chevraya kaddishaya*, so I'll stick with *Chevras*) only served their own members, and since every Jew would inevitably require a burial and non-religious options weren't available, this simply meant that every Jew was to be a member of a *Chevra*. Equal service based on equal participation. The fact that this has changed is a shame on various levels. It has meant that a small group of people is now responsible for the operation of the *Chevra Kaddisha*, rendering it more of a service provider than being at the heart of the community. Moreover, by and large, Jews are less aware of the beautiful and meaningful Jewish funeral practices. From personal experience, I can tell you that helping prepare a *met*, a deceased person, for burial, or helping family members get ready for this act of closure and love, is a deeply touching and thoroughly humbling experience. From the responses of the families we serve, it is clear that being on the receiving end of this communal effort is also touching and comforting; in fact, it often is a death in the family that spurs people on to become active in the *Chevra*.

Though the tasks of the *Chevra Kaddisha* are many and varied, the combined effort of fellow congregants, or fellow community members, brings people together. The circumstances vary, but

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 if there is no surviving family, the community becomes family, extending bonds to those most in need, ensuring that their last needs are met. The *Chevra Kaddisha*, through its work, strengthens the congregational fabric.

Joining your local *Chevra Kaddisha*, 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 tremendously 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 it 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:

- **Shmira:** 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 Kaddisha*. The deceased is then dressed in shrouds and readied for burial.
- **Shiv'a:** The *Chevra Kaddisha* may help with ensuring a *minyán* in the house of mourning, so that the immediate relatives sitting *shiv'a* can say *kaddish*.
- **Other support:** The *Chevra Kaddisha* 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 *shiv'a*, for instance.

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



tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

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 Committee Open House with Special Guest Speaker Tolu Olubunmi: Dreamer, Advocate, & Activist June 3, 10 am to Noon in the Biran Beit Midrash



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.

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."



Adas members join Pre-Passover Vigil at the Israeli embassy to demonstrate concern for the plight of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in Israel who are threatened with deportation.



LEV B'LEV (HEART TO HEART)



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.

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 (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 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.

INCLUSION UPDATE

by Joel Fischman



Hamakom: Quiet room at Adas Israel with minimal sensory stimulation.

Adas Israel's Inclusion Task Force has its origin in the 2011 Martin Luther King Jr./Tikkun Olam weekend, which was dedicated to disability awareness and featured Judith Heumann as our keynote speaker. Judy, then Special Advisor to the U.S. Department of State for International Rights of Persons and proud member of Adas Israel, got our attention with a riveting address that *Shabbat* evening.

That 2011 MLK/Tikkun Olam weekend also honored Joy and Bob Cohen with the *Shem Tov Award* for their tremendous work with the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH), a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the independence, dignity, choice, and community inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities. JFGH's programs support more than 200 individuals in over 70 sites throughout the DC Metropolitan area. Adas welcomes JFGH residents at *Shabbat* and holiday services and programs throughout the year.

By the end of 2011, Judy and Debby Joseph, then Chief Initiatives Officer for JFGH and later Adas Israel president, founded the Inclusion Task Force "to create a welcoming environment that enables people of all ages with all forms of disability to fully participate in the Adas Israel community and to remove any barriers to their participation."

By 2013, and every year since, Adas Israel has actively commemorated Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month every February. It is our hope that the various events, which have included films, book talks, guest speakers, and hands-on workshops, would give all of us an opportunity to learn about the needs of our fellow congregants with disabilities and to make it easier for them to gain access to the richness of our congregational experience. Our clergy participate in the annual Jewish Disability Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.

continued on next page . . .



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 reach the *mezzuzot*? Or whether a person in a wheelchair could open entrance doors without assistance? Or about working sound systems for the hearing impaired, or large print *siddurim* for the visually impaired? 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 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 interpretation
- Gender-neutral restroom
- Large-print *siddurim* and *machzorim*
- Accessible bimah 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 hardly over. 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

adasisrael.org or call our staff Liaison Naomi Malka, 202-362-4433, ext. 142, with any questions and to get involved.



Rabbi Visits: *Hesed* in the Neighborhood

So often when rabbis come to visit someone in their home, the reason is sad or worrisome. Our rabbis are there for us in times of illness or sorrow. However, at Adas Israel, our rabbis are always looking at new and unique ways to create community. They realize in particular that feeling like you are part of our community is difficult if getting to Adas is a challenge. This is often true for our beloved Adas members in their golden years.

Thus, the Hesed Committee has started organizing **Hesed Rabbi Visits in the Neighborhood**. On selected Friday afternoons, our rabbis go out to people's homes to bring *Shabbat* greetings, a bag of Hesed-cooked goodies, and the feeling of connecting with Adas. They are visiting not because there is a problem or a worry. They are going to create community and the special connection that being a member of Adas brings.

The visits have shown the power of connection. Seeing people in their homes surrounded by the treasures they have collected over the years conveys an important message. The stories shared by those who are visited remind us of the special people who have been Adas members for decades. Members for 30, 40, 50 years, or more provide us the strong shoulders we now stand on.

One gentleman well into his 90s whom the clergy visited greeted them in the house he built and in which raised his children. The memories he shared of his life and his Jewish connection brought tears of joy to everyone's eyes. The visit benefited the gentleman, his daughter who happened to be there, and even the aide (we can never forget the unsung importance of aides, who are very much part of the family dynamic of our aging families). As is true with most Hesed activities, the giving goes both ways: the rabbis give their time and attention to these wonderful individuals, and, in turn, these people share the history and memories of the special lives they lived.

Hesed can take place inside or outside the walls of Adas. Hesed is building community one connection at a time. If you know of an Adas member who would benefit from a Rabbi Visit in the Neighborhood, or if you want to be part of the Hesed Visits Team, please e-mail hesed@adasisrael.org.



Ma Tovu The Halper Family

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

We are fortunate to have three generations of Halpers here at Adas! Let's start off with introductions: Lakshmi Halper, mother of Shela and Nina and a travel agent specializing in India and Cuba; Shela, 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 underinsured afford their medical treatments; and Nina, mother of three-year-old Rafael, 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 chose me so I'll explain: 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. Stanley was a dear friend, and I will always remember how important he was in our lives.

I left Adas when my girls went to college and spent a few years wandering 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.

Shela 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?

Shela: As our mother said, Rabbi Rabinowitz was an inspirational leader and holds a very special place in our family's hearts. We're sure that everyone who grew up here remembers Jimmie's Sweet Shop, which we visited frequently! It was not only a

great place to take a break from religious school, but Jimmy had a thriving recording business, and recorded all of our *b'nai mitzvah*. Sadly, our cassettes are both gone; Nina's was stolen out of the back of her car and somehow someone recorded over Shela's!

In addition to my *bat mitzvah* and confirmation, I have such fond memories of the many wonderful summers I spent at Camp Tel Shalom, my first sleepaway camp (and Nina's a bit later). I remember the bunks, the lake . . . the whole setting so vividly; drinking "bug" juice; celebrating Jewish holidays that I had never even heard of, and literally spending hours and hours singing the *birkat hamazon*!

Tradition is so important to our family. We have so many lasting 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.

Nina: I 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 *Dubim* 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 shy 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?

continued on page 35 . . .



sisterhoodnews

NETWORKING, NURTURING, LEARNING, SUSTAINING



Shavuot Greetings from Sisterhood

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 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 all year round to benefit Torah Fund, see <http://adasisrael.org/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.adasisrael.org/sisterhood, including the online calendar; and our announcements via @adas, e-mails, and the Order of Service.



Weekday Torah with Sisterhood with Norman Shore 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 Fungler 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 tzedek* (righteous converts), now 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.



Sisterhood Goes to the Movies

During the Washington Jewish Film Festival, on Thursday, May 3, at 6:15 pm, at Bethesda Row Cinema (7235 Woodmont Avenue), we will see *RBG*, a documentary about Ruth Bader Ginsburg. At the age of 84, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a breathtaking legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. But without a definitive Ginsburg biography, the unique personal journey of this diminutive, quiet warrior's rise to the nation's highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans—until now. *RBG* is

a revelatory documentary from Betsy West and Julie Cohen and co-produced by Storyville Films and CNN Films.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be reserved by calling Elinor Tattar at 301-438-9299; payment can be made the day of the movie to Elinor. Anyone interested in having a bite to eat beforehand can meet at 5:00 pm at Paul, a French Bakery and Patisserie, 4760 Bethesda Avenue, across from the theater.



Sunday Tea with Sisterhood MAY 6 BETHESDA

For questions and to reserve, contact June Kress, junebkress@gmail.com. Next date: Sunday brunch in Bethesda, June 3.



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 Knitting, 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. 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, lesleyfrost0@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.fairgirls.org/>, who will offer insight on the current reality of human trafficking and further the discussion about local and international solutions.

ruth & simon albert

sisterhood gift shop

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 eying.

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, edibles, kosher klafs, or children's books.
Already reduced items are not reduced further. All sales are FINAL.

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.



Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

Saw You at Sinai

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

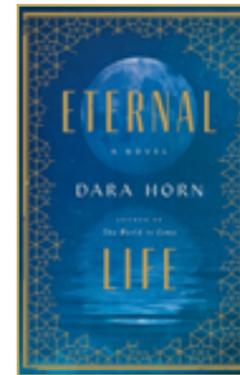
Every year at *Shavuot*, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, we encounter one of the most fascinating, mind-bending, hard-to-wrap-your-head-around concepts in Judaism. At the transcendent moment at Mount Sinai—when God’s voice thundered the words of the covenant—ALL Jews were present, 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* is about a woman who lived in ancient Jerusalem, took a mystical vow at the Temple, and, as a result, never died. While *Eternal Life* explores the ramifications of being immortal, *The Immortalists*, a novel by Chloe Benjamin, delves into the inverse situation: Benjamin’s characters know (or think they know) the dates they will die.

Despite these immensely imaginative premises, both novels, disappointingly, reach rather commonplace conclusions (e.g., death is what gives life meaning [*Eternal Life*] or a life spent worrying about death is a life wasted [*The Immortalists*]). Nonetheless, both novels are rewarding reads. Horn marvelously evokes Jerusalem in the time of the Second Temple, while Benjamin creates interesting, unusual characters grappling with loss and uncertainty.



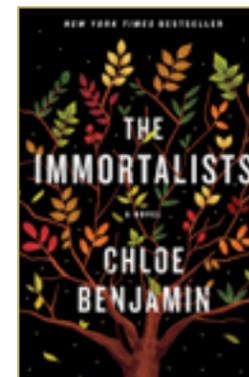
ETERNAL LIFE BY DARA HORN



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.

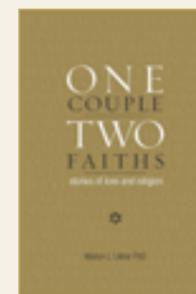
In Rachel’s contemporary story, she is a 2000-year-old woman who regards her immortality as a curse. Over the centuries, she has cared for numerous husbands and children and seen them all die while she continued to live (unbeknownst to her families, each time she “dies” she regenerates elsewhere, once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

THE IMMORTALISTS BY CHLOE BENJAMIN



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?



ADAS EVENT:

One Couple Two Faiths: Stories of Love & Religion

A PROGRAM ADDRESSING INTERFAITH COUPLES & THEIR FAMILIES, MAY 29TH @ 7:30 PM

Please join us for a conversation between Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and Dr. Marion Usher about Dr. Usher’s new book, *One Couple Two Faiths: Stories of Love and Religion*, a guide to interfaith relationships. Dr. Usher, creator of “Love and Religion: An Interfaith Workshop for Jews and Their Partners” has worked with over 700 interfaith couples in the past 25 years. On Tuesday, May 29, at 7:30 pm she will share her observations of the changes occurring in our Jewish community and the work that still needs to be accomplished for ours to be considered an inclusive community.

We hope you will join us for this interesting dialogue to be held in the Biran *Beit Midrash*. Refreshments will be served after the program, and Dr. Usher’s book will be for sale.



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 Suissa, May 26

Charles Michael, son of Jimmy and Anne Suissa, 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 Hatechelet tallit/tefillin factory in Be'er Sheva, where he purchased a tallit 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 Jamie 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

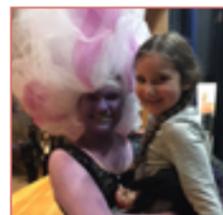
Mazal tov to . . .

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

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.



Adas Israel Seaboard USY Kadima basketball team on taking home the 2018 Champion Trophies!



Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Middle School students on their performance of *The Little Mermaid*.



IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Carolyn J. Jacobson

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Jeanette Diamond, mother of David Diamond

Claudia Eisen Flack, sister of Amy Krupsky, aunt of Rachel

Krupsky & Lydia Topstton

Frederick Krochmal, father of Lisa Krochmal

Mimi B. Loeb, mother of Alan Loeb

Wilma Paauw, mother of Dirk Aardsma

Nona J. Teichman, mother of Shelley Remer

LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION



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

Kol HaMayaim

Our *mikvah* is run by an amazing group of Guides, and we couldn't function without their devoted service. *Mikvah* Guides facilitate safe and meaningful experiences with *kavod* (respect) and *rachamim* (compassion) for the wide diversity of people who come here for the *mitzvah* of ritual immersion and for many other creative uses.

We want to thank each of these individuals for serving in this very special role. Some of them are Adas members, and some belong to other communities. Some of them are *mikvah* users, some have yet to take the plunge! Some of them are *mikvah* educators as well as Guides. What they all have in common is a commitment to supporting people through moments of transitions with a Jewish ritual.

They are: Leah Chanin, Sue Dorfman, Mollie Feldman, Reena Glazer, Jen Halpern, Elaine Holton, Michael Levin, Lauren Markoe, Rebecca Maltzman, Rachel Merritt, Michele Pinczuk, Debby Rosenman, Judy Saks, Janet Scribner, Petra Socolovsky, Sara Tauber, Eli Vanlal, Samantha Vinokor-Meinrath, and Danny Weininger.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Mikvah@adasisrael.org.

When Death Occurs

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

Bereavement Committee

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



Hesed Committee

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



SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

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 & Krayna Feinberg, Stuart Horn & Marian Fox, Sophia Lang, Roger & Shelia Meyer, Natalie Patel, Sarah Shapiro, Paul Walters, Susan P. Willens. *In Honor Of:* **Ari Strauss** by Heather Moran. Andrew Meyers by Beth Simon. *In Memory Of:* **Martin Schwat & Norton Weiss** by David & Ari Antonelli. **Mollie Blatt** by Michael & Shelley Kossak.

Anne Frank House Fund

By: Haim & Naomi Malka, Shirley Nochomovitz & Martin Brownstein, Stanley M. Salus, Peter Sufirin.

Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: **Esrael Danziger** by Arnold Danziger. **Alden Boorstein** by Fradel Kramer.

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 Scribner.

B’Yahad Special Needs Fund

In Honor Of: **Sheri Brown** & all she has done for the Gan by Tamar & Keith Levenberg.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Cantor Arianne Brown** by Larry & Melanie Nussdorf. **Cantor Ari** in appreciation of her warm welcome by Eileen Hinkes.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: **Philip Silberman** by Jared Silberman. *In Memory Of:* **Wilma Paauw** by Rae Grad & Many Schiffres. **Linda Greenberg** by Richard & Susan Ugelow. **Gabrielle Nyrop Thompson** by Rae Brooks.

Dan Kaufman Children’s Program Fund

In Honor Of: **Minna Kaufman**’s 100th birthday by Dale Kaufman & Stephen Klatsky.

Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund

In Honor Of: **Sarah Porter** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Renée & Roger Fendrich.

Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

In Memory Of: **Ellen Gelman** by John & Renny

Kossow, Frances Burka.

Fund for the Future

In Memory Of: **Roslyn Lavine** by Judith & Russell Smith.

Garden of the Righteous

In Loving Memory Of: **Rhoda Alban** by David Connick. *In Memory Of:* **Charles Silverman** by Joseph Silverman.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Harry Linowes**’s 90th birthday by Cookie Kerxton.

Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation Of: **Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith** by Janet Scribner.

Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund

In Honor Of: **Sarah Porter** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by David & Heather Polonsky. *In Memory Of:* **Alfred Becker** by Edith Rehfeld. **Georgia Pope** by Jill Jacob.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Memory Of: **Phyllis Margolis** by Paula Goldman. **Dr. Joel S. Ganz** by Rhoda Ganz.

Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Marcy Miller** by Marilyn Tucker.

Men’s Club Amuday Torah Fund

In Memory Of: **Joseph J. Cohen** by Shirley Cohen.

Mikvah Fund

In Honor Of: Our wedding by Rachel Karas & Zachary Cohen.

Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund

In Memory Of: **Morris Hariton** by Carl & Nancy Gewirz.

Offerings Fund

In Honor Of: The wonderful *Purim* program by Rhona & David Byer. **Elijah Ascher-DiGiacinto** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Sheri Brown. **Moy, Abe & Gabi Jinich** by Norman Goldin. **Harriet Isack** by Hazel Keimowitz.

Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation Of: **Rabbi Aaron Alexander** with thanks for all you do by Mark Werfel. *In Memory Of:* **Rebecca Melamed** by Harry Melamed.

Rabbi Avis Miller Lifelong Learning Fund

In Memory Of: **Helen Chernikoff** by Larry Chernikoff.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: Our son’s *bris* by William & Kira

Begal.

In Appreciation Of: **Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt** with thanks for all you do by Mark Werfel.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

In Memory Of: **Shirley Mantell** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Refugee Response Project

In Honor Of: **Katy Gingels**’s birthday by Jodi Blecker.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Memory Of: **Raymond Joseph, Shirley Joseph, & George Cohen** by Ellen Gertsen. **Sophie Tepper** by Edie Hessel. **Fay Rubenstein** by Leslie Chernikoff Berman & David Berman. **Herbert Marshall Birtha** by Rachel Eitches. **Ruth Wineburg** by Judy Melamed. **Abe Schwartz** by Herbert Schwartz. **Evelyn Promisel** by Larry & Myra Promisel. **Dorothy Warren** by Florence Meyer. **Judy Goldberg Davanzo** by Lester & Karen Goldberg. **Ray Firestone** by Ross Firestone. **Nona Teichman** by Elinor Tattar. **Frances Honikman** by Geraldine Dubit. **Lillian Seigel** by Carolyn Shanoff. **Samuel I. Block** by Judith Block.

Samuel & Sadie Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Leonore Leonard** by Martin Kirsch.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Memory Of: **Elaine Semel Sorcher** by Alan & Dale Sorcher.

Shelley Remer Gan HaYeled Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: **Elliot Bramson, David Diamond, Sadie Foer, Noah Freedman, & Madeleine Miller** becoming *b’nai mitzvah*, by Shelley & Stewart Remer. *In Memory Of:* **Nona Teichman** by Glenn & Cindy Easton, Jeff Knishkowsky & Patti Lieberman, Debby & Don Tracy.

Siddur Lev Shalem Praybook Fund

In Honor Of: **Lisa Schnell**’s birthday by Mr. & Mrs. Schnell.

Sisterhood Donations

In Memory Of: **Shirley Ansell** by Marcia Miller. **Allen Boorstein** by Miriam Rosenthal & Mileve Phillips.

Social Action Fund

In Memory Of: **David Buring** by Benjamin Buring. **Edward L. Dublin** by Lois Fingerhut.

Stanley & Veeda Wiener Memorial Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of my great-granddaughter, **Isabelle Sophie Coombs**, by Ruth Snyder.

SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS



Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Music Fund

In Memory Of: **Linda Greenberg** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund

In Memory Of: **Rabbi Allan Langner, Mimi Loeb** by Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund

In Memory Of: **Jeanne Rothrock** by Susan Rothrock. **Nathan Lipkin** by Harriet Lipkin & Chris Sautter. **Robert Sherman** by Robin Beden. **Mark Greenstein** by Glenn Easton. **Philip Prosky & Klara Schonberger Prosky** by Martin Prosky. **Joseph Elfin** by Mel Elfin. **Betty Lesser** by Margery Elfin. **Bernard Steinberg** by Shirley Steinberg. **Elliot Samuel Gerger** by Ricki Gerger. **Dorothy Levinson** by Toby Kahn.

USY/Tikkun Olam Fund

In Honor Of: **Levi Gilman** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Phyllis Mindell.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory Of: **Alfred Abramson** by Edward Abramson. **Sandra Gustin** by Charlotte Teicher. **Lena Teicher** by Harry Teicher. **Michael Schwalb** by Jacob Schwalb. **Mel Mantz** by Beth Steindecker. **Frances Komros** by Marshall Cohen. **Dorothy W. Lobel** by Martin Lobel. **Phyllis Margolis & Harry Meresman** by Michael Goldman. **Sol B. Kletzkin** by Morris Kletzkin. Dr. **Samuel Diener** by Daniel Diener. **Morris Levinson** by Don Levinson. **Yakov Zilberbaum** by Joseph Zilberbaum. **Ida Hochman Gudelsky** by Norman Hochman. **Joseph Levy** by Stanley Zupnik. **Betty Cohen** by Stuart B. Cohen. **Sandy Cohen** by Beverly Cohen. **Dr. Irving Gordon** by Ivy & Harry Tobin. **Jennie Shofnos** by Miriam Schlesinger. **Herman Greenberg** by Monica Greenberg. **Philip Chernikoff** by Ruth Chernikoff. **Gertrude Holtzman** by Shirley Glassman. **Sylvia Altman Maley & Ellen Altman Glassman** by Zalma Slawsky. **Norman G. Cohen** by Bob Cohen. **Beverly Espinesa** by Grayce Warren-Boulton. **Oscar Friedman** by Judith F. Beltz. **Ursel Frank** by Ruth Bognovitz. **Esther Banoun** by Raymond Banoun. **Ruth Kreisman** by Barbara Kreisman. **Blossom Ritter** by Loren Kantor.

Youth Department Activities Fund

In Memory Of: **Eugene Joffe** by Mary Elizabeth Sadun. **Louise Hallet** by Chad, Ari & Meyer Stahl. **Philip Chernikoff, Morris Berman, & Pia Kaye**, all by Leslie Chernikoff Berman & David Berman. **David Sykes** by Diane Sykes, Ginny Sykes. **Ferne Meyer** by Laurence Meyer. **A .Harris Grossman** by Faith Apt. **Sylvia Maloff** by Pearl Lutzker. **Dena Fischer** by Nora Fischer. **Bessie Siegel** by Michelle Leavy Grayson.

Ma Tovu (continued)

Lakshmi: We love to travel. As kids, I them 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 & Shela: 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 will say, come over for 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 Sabra. You wrote about Sabra’s adventures in Sabra 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 Sabra 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. Sabra was one of 39 puppies rescued from the Hezbollah 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 had many 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 around 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. If 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; **Shela:** I prefer savory, so really good cheese!



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