

Adas Israel Congregation December/Kislev–Tevet

CHRONICLE



Happy *Hanukkah*!

Join us for the Festival of Lights beginning Sunday, December 2nd

The *Chronicle* Is Supported in Part by the Ethel and Nat Popick Endowment Fund



From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT



Our calendar brings us to the holiday of *Hanukkah* right about now. Just like *Shabbat* each week, it arrives just when we need it. Our days are shorter, and sunlight is abbreviated; the lights of *Hanukkah* dramatically remind us that every day our lives can be made brighter by the joy we extend to others. I've compiled a wish-list for you—my wishes for what *Hanukkah* brings each and every one of you, this year and always.

I'm writing this column a few days after the horrendous event in Pittsburgh. So many others have spoken much more eloquently than I can about this stunning tragedy; I can only add my prayers to the millions that are flowing to God for those who were so mercilessly gunned down and for Jewish people everywhere.

For the first night of *Hanukkah*, Sunday, December 2, when the light of the *menorah* makes only a small crack in the darkness, I wish you the brightness that comes from experiencing the sermons our rabbis give us each *Shabbat* morning. Their messages are deep and quite often profound; they beautifully translate the noise of the week into spiritual comfort. And you don't even have to come to *shul*! Just call this number at around 11:25 on *Shabbat* morning: 202-686-8405. That's approximately the time they give the sermon. Maybe it'll be at 11:30 or 11:35, but you get the point. You can call from the soccer field, from Nordstrom, from wherever you are. Or you can stream the entire service (or just the sermon if you prefer) by going to adasisrael.org/serviceslive. Give yourself this gift.

For the second night, with a bit more light, I wish you the opportunity to play with a child. If you don't have any running around where you are, go visit someone who does. Your world will fill with abundant light, far beyond what the *menorah* is providing. And if you have one, consider taking your child to visit some folks who don't; you'll get lots of *mitzvah* points, and, even better, you'll bring someone a lot of happiness.

On the third night, make a plan to give back to your community. Make it with your children, if you have any. Sure, I'd love for you to get involved at Adas Israel, through our Hesed work or our Social Action Committee, as a start. We all know the value in getting involved in something bigger than ourselves, but if it's

not here, that's fine. Just give something of yourself to someone else. You'll feel great doing it!

On the fourth night of *Hanukkah*, my true love gave to me . . . WHOOPS! WRONG HOLIDAY!

On the fifth night, when we experience the joy of increasing light as well as the sadness of knowing that we've passed the halfway mark, I wish for you the comfort of spending social time with other people. Enjoy stimulating conversation, go to the picture show with a friend, anything instead of staying home.

On the sixth night, *erev Shabbat*, sing. Sing while you light candles. Sing while you eat. Sing after you eat. Just sing.

On the seventh night, almost full light, pick up a book. Read. I'm a restless reader, and I worry I'll forget about books I really want to read right now, so I'm currently in the middle of seven or eight. Please don't tell me how any of these books ends: *Fear* (Bob Woodward), *A Horse Walks into a Bar* (David Grossman), *October 1964* (David Halberstam), *Shmirath Halashon* (Yisrael Meir Kagan), *Paper* (Andrew Stanek), or *The Future of Business* (Brian Solis), *Career of Evil* (Robert Galbraith [you know who that is, right?]).

And on the brightest night of the holiday, the eighth, create a wish for the people in your life. And tell them what it is so they can carry it with them every day, through next *Hanukkah*, and beyond.

Have a truly light-filled, joyful *Hanukkah*!



Clergy Corner

CANTOR ARIANNE BROWN



הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם *These lights we kindle are holy.*

As a first-year cantorial student, I was thrilled beyond belief at the prospect of my first High Holiday job. I could scarcely believe it! It was a dream come true, to have the opportunity to lead a congregation in prayer in these most holy of days! Of course, this first job was not at the likes of an Adas Israel. Rather, it was in a woodsy area in a town I'd never heard of, somewhere in the middle of New Jersey.

On *Rosh Hashanah*, I stayed with a family that lived two miles from the synagogue, but I did not want to expend energy walking far on *Yom Kippur*. Instead, I slept on a cot in the one-room synagogue. By myself. In the middle of the woods. With the wind howling and the windows rattling, knowing that countless strangers owned the key. All the lights were out, and only the *ner tamid*, the eternal light, illuminated the darkness for me. While I was probably in much less danger than I imagined, I felt differently about the *ner tamid* that night. It became my companion in a night filled with prayer, guiding me, giving me light, and reminding me of my faith.

As *Hanukkah* approaches, we retell the ancient, beautiful story of miracles.

We accept the part of the story that tells us that the Maccabees, upon entering their desecrated, beloved Temple, immediately searched for oil to light the *ner tamid*. Amidst a scene of destruction and disorder, their first instinct in restoring *kavod*—honor—to their Temple was not to clean, scrub, and rid it of pagan symbols, but rather, to light that eternal flame. Having come through an incredibly strenuous and truly dangerous series of battles, I can imagine those Maccabees entering their Temple with a need for that guiding light.

Did our people become attached to the subject of the oil lasting for eight days because of the miraculous story that has been passed down to us? Or was it the potency of our attachment to the *ner tamid* that caused our traditions to form this way?



When we visit other synagogues, whether nearby or in our travels throughout the world, we expect to see that *ner tamid*. Decor and customs vary widely. The visuals of the *ner tamid* may bear little resemblance to each other, as artistic forms span from traditional to uber modern! Yet, we look to see it shining brightly, illuminating our prayer space and connecting us to other sanctuaries of our lives.

As we anticipate Hanukkah and think about the deep religious urge of the Maccabees to restore light, let's ask ourselves these questions: Who is a *ner tamid* for you, ever present in your life as a guiding light? How do you strive to be a *ner tamid* for your loved ones and your community? What passions in your life light the way for you, as you illuminate the path for others?

I wish you and your families a happy Hanukkah!



Learn more about Hanukkah @
Adas on Pages 4-5 of the *Chronicle*!



HANUKKAH

BEGINS SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS



HANUKKAH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS 2018/5779

Nightly (December 2–10)

Community *menorah* lightings at 6:00 pm

Daily (When Gan is in session)

Community lighting in Gan space

Sunday, December 2, 9:00 am

Dan Kaufman Memorial Latke Party, starting with a spirited sing-along in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

Monday, December 3, 5:30 pm

Light the candles and sing at Somerset House (5600 Wisconsin Avenue) with David Polonsky & Marcy Spiro

Wednesday, December 5, 3:30 pm

Sing, schmooze, and eat sweet treats in the Community Room at 4701 Willard Avenue with Rabbi Krinsky & Cantor Brown

Friday, December 7, 1:00 pm

Spin a *dreidel*, sing a song, and chat at 3001 Veazey Terrace, NW, with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander

Friday, December 7, 6:30 pm

YP Shir Delight, Hanukkah Style

We will be taking a few *Hanukkah* parties on the road the first week of December. For our members who live in or near the buildings we'll be visiting, we hope you'll join us for some sweet treats, *Hanukkah* songs, and catching up with other members. For more information and to RSVP, contact Marcy Spiro, *marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org* or 202-362-4433.

Why Do We Celebrate Hanukkah?

The festival of *Hanukkah* commemorates the successful struggle for religious liberty, led by the priest Mattathias and later by his son, the brave Judah Maccabee, against the Syrian oppressors, in the year 167 BCE. That effort culminated in victory for the Jewish people and in recapturing the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was cleansed and rededicated to the service of God with lights rekindled in the Sanctuary. The Festival is known in Hebrew as *Hanukkah*, which literally means "Dedication." It is also called the "Feast of Lights," because the *Hanukkah* candles are lit on each of eight successive nights. We celebrate the "miracle of the oil," the rededication of the Temple and the first rebellion for religious freedom.

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS

When Is Hanukkah Observed?

Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month, *Kislev*, the day on which the Temple was reconsecrated to the worship of God. The Festival is observed for eight days. According to our tradition, the "day" officially commences on the evening that precedes it. Hence, the first candle is lit on the evening that ushers in the 25th day of *Kislev*. On each succeeding night of *Hanukkah*, we light an additional candle, totaling eight in all.

This year, Hanukkah begins on Sunday evening, December 2; candelighting should take place in the evening.

Hanukkah Practices

Each Jewish home should have a *Hanukkah menorah*. The Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop has a wide range of *Hanukkiot* and other *Hanukkah* items available for purchase.

Place the *Hanukkah menorah* in a conspicuous place in your home. The lights should be kindled as soon as possible after nightfall with all members of the family present. Any members of the family, including children, may kindle the *Hanukkah* lights.

A famous symbol of *Hanukkah* is the *dreidel*, a four-faced top, with one Hebrew letter on each face as follows: Each letter is the beginning of a Hebrew word—*Nes Godol Haya Sham*—a Great Miracle Happened There. Various games can be played with the *dreidel*, and it is a custom among some to eat potato latkes at this time because they are fried in oil.

In addition to being a "home" holiday, *Hanukkah* is celebrated in the synagogue. Hallel Psalms are recited, there is an additional Torah reading in honor of *Hanukkah*, and a special *haftarah* is chanted on *Shabbat Hanukkah*.

How to Light Hanukkah Candles

Light the *Shamash* candle first. On the first evening of *Hanukkah*, one candle is lit, which is placed on the far right of the *menorah*, as you face it. Place a candle to its left on the second night of *Hanukkah*, and continue placing the candles toward the left on each successive night of *Hanukkah*. Always light the "new" candle for that night first, and then proceed to the right in the lighting process.

On Friday, the *Hanukkah* candles are kindled before lighting the *Shabbat* candles. On Saturday night, the *Hanukkah* candles are kindled after *Havdalah*, which marks the conclusion of *Shabbat*, has been recited.

The ceremony of the kindling of lights is the most significant aspect of the festival. The family should remain standing around the *Hanukkah* menorah as the *Shamash* (the candle used to light the other candles) is lit. As the candle is held, the first blessing over the *Hanukkah* lights is chanted:

Hanukkah Blessings

ברוך אתה יי אלקינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Baruch ata Adonai,
Ehloheinu melech haolam
Asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav
V'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who has sanctified us by His commandments and command us to kindle the *Hanukkah* lights.

ברוך אתה יי אלקינו מלך העולם, שצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Baruch ata Adonai,
Ehloheinu melech haolam,
Sheasa nisim laavoteinu
Bayamim hahaim baz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who did wondrous things for our ancestors, in days of old at this season.

On the first night, the following is added:

ברוך אתה יי אלקינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והציענו ליסור הזה.

*Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam,
Shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who has granted us life, sustained us, and permitted us to celebrate this joyous festival.

All join in singing Ma'oz Tzur

מעוז צור ישועתי, לד נאה לשבח,
תכון בית תפילתי ושם תודה נזבח,
לעת תכין מטבח מצר המנובח,
אז אנמור בשרי מזמור חנכת המנובח.

*Ma'oz tzur y'shuati, lecha na'eh l'shabei-ah.
Tikon beit t'filati, v'sham todah n'za-bei-ah.
L'eit takhin matbei-ah, mi-tzar ha'm'na-bei-ah.
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah,
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah.*



Hate Has No Place Here!

Thousands of community members assembled at Adas Israel on **Monday, October 29**, for an interfaith service and solidarity gathering to mourn the innocent lives lost at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue. Clergy members and government officials throughout the greater DC area joined together to exclaim, **"Hate has no place here."**



FROM KABBALAH TO THE BIG BANG: ANCIENT WISDOM & CONTEMPORARY SPIRITUALITY

SPECIAL SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

with Dr. Prof. Daniel C. Matt



Mark your calendars for an immersive weekend of contemplative practice and study with one of the world's leading Kabbalah scholars.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Dr. Daniel Matt recently completed an 18-year project of translating and annotating the *Zohar*. He has published over a dozen books, including *The Essential Kabbalah* and *God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality*, in addition to being featured in *Time*, *Newsweek* and National Public Radio. His nine-volume annotated translation of the *Zohar* (*The Zohar: Pritzker Edition*) has been hailed as “a monumental contribution to the history of Jewish thought.”

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND SCHEDULE:



Shechinah: The Feminine Half of God

FRIDAY NIGHT, NOV. 30, SERVICES AT 6:00 PM

Dr. Matt will give the d'var at services on Friday night at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner and lecture at 7:00 pm. Pre-registration for the dinner is required. One of the boldest contributions of Kabbalah is the idea that God is equally female and male. Dr. Matt will briefly trace the development of Kabbalah and then focus on the concept of *Shechinah* (the feminine aspect of God) from its rabbinic origins to its full flowering in the *Zohar*, where *Shechinah* is identified with the Sabbath Bride.



Derash: The Mystical Meaning of Torah

SHABBAT MORNING, DEC. 1 @ 9:30 AM

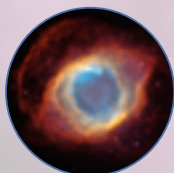
How does the mystical approach to Torah differ from a literal approach? From a midrashic approach? How can a mystical approach enrich our lives today? Dr. Matt will explore these questions with us by teaching several passages from his award-winning translation, *The Zohar: Pritzker Edition*.



Raising the Sparks: Finding God in the Material World

SHABBAT AFTER KIDDUSH @ 1:15 PM

How can we encounter God in our daily life? Dr. Matt will explore this question with us by teaching passages from Kabbalah and Hasidism on the nature of God, the act of Creation, and the challenge of discovering God in the material world.



God & the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science & Spirituality

SUNDAY MORNING, DEC. 2 @ 10:00 AM

Our scholar-in-residence will explore the parallels between Kabbalah and contemporary cosmology. How does the mystical understanding of Creation compare with the modern theory of the origin of the universe? Is there a way to harmonize these two approaches—the scientific and the spiritual?

UPCOMING EVENTS



Combined Community *Shabbat* Service with the DC Jewish Community at Temple Micah

FRIDAY, DEC. 28, AT 6:30 PM (*ONEG* AT 6 PM)

Continuing a tradition of more than 30 years, Adas Israel Congregation will again participate in a combined community service on Friday, December 28, to be held this year at Temple Micah. Join Cantor Arianne Brown, officers, and fellow congregants with Washington Hebrew, Temple Sinai, and Temple Micah. This long-standing tradition of sharing is a significant way to mark the closure of the secular year and a wonderful opportunity to share *Shabbat* with members of sister congregations in our area. We encourage your attendance as a way of strengthening the inter-synagogue relationships and of marking the transition in the calendar in a religious manner. **There will be no *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service at Adas Israel on Friday, December 28.**

The Adas Israel Community Mikvah would be honored by your presence
as we celebrate the renovation of our space

Mayim b'Sasson

מים בששון

A Joyful Mikvah Rededication Ceremony

Join us for a night of blessings, singing, storytelling, and honoring our Mikvah Guides.
The newly renovated, fully accessible space will be open for all to see.

Wednesday, January 30th, 2019

7:00pm: Reception and hors d'oeuvres

7:30pm: Ceremony and Storytelling

Adas Israel Congregation, Kay Hall

RSVP: mikvah@adasisrael.org



Talley's Folly By Lanford Wilson; Directed by Aaron Posner

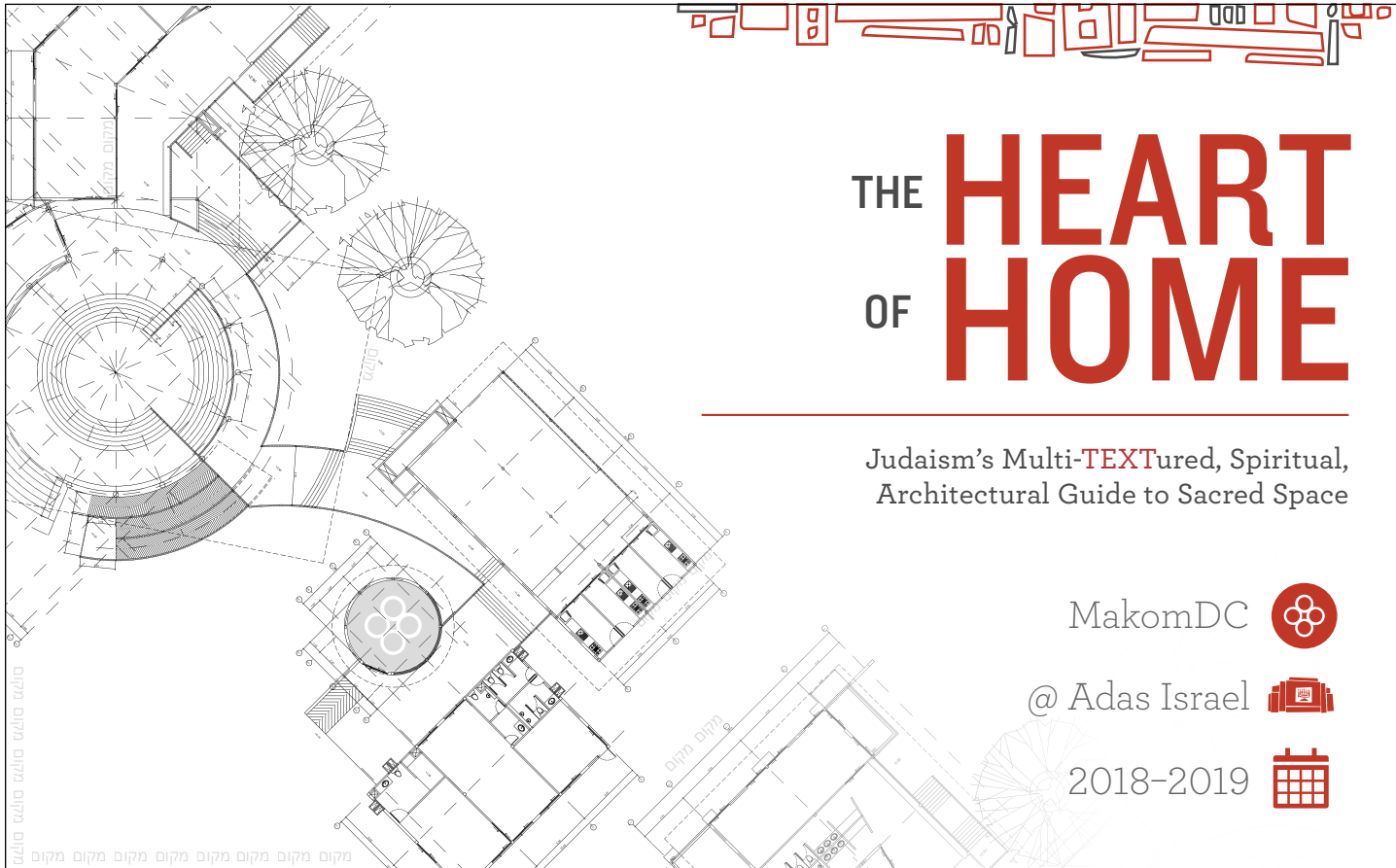
DECEMBER 7-30, 2018

At GALA Hispanic Theatre, 3333 14th St., NW

This Pulitzer Prize-winning romantic comedy is a poignant valentine to unlikely love. On a moonlit night in 1944 Missouri, middle-aged Jewish accountant Matt Freidman has only one chance to win the heart of Sally Talley, a 31-year-old “old maid” from a bigoted Protestant family. After a lifetime of believing they’ll never truly belong in the world around them, Matt and Sally reawaken one another to love, ultimately finding that they do belong—together.

Directed by Aaron Posner, *Talley's Folly* is a funny and heart-warming theatrical duet. Featuring John Taylor Phillips and Erin Weaver. **According to the New York Times, “Mr. Wilson is one of our most gifted playwrights . . . Talley's Folly is a play to savor and cheer.”** Get your tickets at www.theaterj.org. Tickets will be available for pick up at GALA Hispanic Theatre one hour before your scheduled performance.





MakomDC 2018-19 Season

The Heart of “Home”: Judaism’s Multi-Textured, Spiritual, Architectural Guide to Sacred Space

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.

MAKOMDC DECEMBER LEARNING



DECEMBER MAKOMDC SCHOLAR:

Dena Weiss

Won't You Be My Neighbor? The Right to Privacy in Jewish Sources

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 7:30 PM

In this class we'll be exploring some of the Jewish legal perspectives on how to build one's physical home. One of the core areas of concern for the Rabbis is the question of what it takes to be a good neighbor and how to balance the values of privacy in an environment of close community and shared space. These conversations touch on fundamental explorations of what and why to share and what the moral and spiritual values of privacy might be. Dena Weiss is the *Rosh Beit Midrash* and Director of Full-Time Immersive Programs at the Hadar Institute in New York City, where she teaches *Talmud*, *Midrash*, and *Hassidut* and writes and records Hadar's weekly *D'var Torah* e-mail and podcast. You can sign up for these at www.hadar.org/denaweiss.

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



When Co-Rabbis Co-Teach . . . Be Ready for Anything & Everything with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 7:30 PM

Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander will introduce the month's theme and lead learners and seekers through an in-depth exploration of the rich, sophisticated, sacred texts that have animated our people for so many years.



The Text with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 @ 7:30 PM

Explore transformative Jewish texts in their original Aramaic and Hebrew. This means that we will break our teeth together and study with no translations but with lots of support from your peers and teachers.



Post-Kiddush Halakhah Class with Rabbi Aaron Alexander

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 @ 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:



The Text 2.0: In Depth *Halakhah* (Jewish Law) with Rabbi Aaron Alexander

REMAINING DATES - TUESDAYS: JAN. 29, MARCH 19, & MAY 21 @ 7:30 PM

Rabbi Alexander leads learners in a textual exploration of a topic in Jewish Law, using original sources without translation. This series is designed primarily for those with previous experience studying classical rabbinic texts in Hebrew/Aramaic.



Boker Or Shabbat Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran *Beit Midrash* with the weekly portion as its focus.

December 1: Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

December 8: Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

December 15: Rabbi Aaron Alexander

December 22: No *Boker Or*

December 29: No *Boker Or*



Friday *Parsha* Study

with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt or Rabbi Aaron Alexander

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM

Please join us Friday mornings in the Biran *Beit Midrash* for an exclusive look at the weekly *parsha*. On the first and second Friday of the month, Rabbi Holtzblatt will explore the *parsha* through the lens of *Hassidut* and mysticism; on the third and fourth Fridays, Rabbi Alexander will use the *Talmud* as the prism for the weekly reading; and on the fifth Friday, Rabbi Krinsky will lead the exploration.



MM1819

Musical Moments at Adas

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

2018-2019 Shabbat Services Calendar

December

2018

- 🎸 **December 1** - Guitar & Percussion
- 🕎 **December 8** - Hallel & Chanukah Melodies, TEM Shabbaton
- 🎸 **December 15** - Return Again
- 🎻 **December 22** - Shabbat in Harmony w/ Robyn Helzner

January

2019

- 🎸 **January 19** - Return Again, MLK Shabbat
- 🎻 **January 26** - Shabbat in Harmony w/ Robyn Helzner

February

2019

- 🎸 **February 9** - Guitar & Percussion
- 🎸 **February 16** - Return Again
- 🎻 **February 23** - Piano, Cello, Percussion

March

2019

- 🎻 **March 2** - Piano, Cello, Percussion
- 🎸 **March 16** - Guitar & Percussion
- 🎸 **March 30** - Return Again

April

2019

- 🕎 **April 6** - Hallel
- 🎸 **April 13** - Return Again
- 🕎 **April 20** - Hallel & Pesach Melodies
- 🎻 **April 27** - Shabbat in Harmony w/ Robyn Helzner, Hallel & Pesach Melodies

May

2019

- 🎻 **May 4** - Piano, Cell, Percussion
- 🎸 **May 11** - Return Again
- 🎸 **May 18** - Guitar & Percussion
- 🎸 **May 25** - Oud, Guitar, Percussion

June

2019

- 🎸 **June 22** - Return Again, Nefesh Mountain participating
- 🎻 **June 29** - Shabbat in Harmony w/ Robyn Helzner

Highlights from "Jewish Music, Jewish Soul" Concert



adasisrael.org/musicalmoments

JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington



Somehow faith outlives every attempt to destroy it. Its symbol is not the fierce fire that burns synagogues and sacred scrolls and murdered lives. It is the fragile flame we, together with our children and grandchildren, light in our homes, singing God's story, sustained by our hope.

RABBI JONATHAN SACKS

According to *Sefer Yetzirah*, the Jewish mystical Book of Creation, *Kislev* is the month of sleep. In this darkest of months, sunlight is limited, temperatures drop, and a quiet, dreamy slumber takes hold of nature and us. Yet, we move into this deep darkness aware of our desire to notice and nourish the seeds of what will be reborn come spring. Even as we embark on our soulful inner journey of inquiry and discovery, *Hanukkah*, the Festival of Lights, reminds us of our yearning to connect. Our candlelighting ritual embraces justice, religious freedom, and the miracles in our world. We hope you'll join us for JMCW December programs as we gather to illuminate the darkness. We are honored to begin the month by welcoming acclaimed *Zohar* scholar Dr. Daniel Matt (see schedule of events below). December also features our light-inspired offerings: the Return Again to *Shabbat* service, Morning Awakening, a *Rosh Chodesh* celebration, and embodied yoga and mindful sits. We look forward to seeing you there!

ONGOING OFFERINGS

Our weekly JMCW meditation and yoga classes offer a home to those who wish to explore embodied spirituality. The yoga program includes 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. Meditation sits offers participants an opportunity to come together for guided teachings, a wide variety of meditation techniques, and silent community sits.



Vinyasa Lunar Flow

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30–7:20 PM

A slow-paced asana practice for all levels, led by a rotating roster of JMCW faculty.



Weekly Meditation Sit

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30–8:30 PM

A community sit that integrates meditation techniques with guided teachings, led by a rotating roster of JMCW faculty.

JMCW RECOMMENDS . . .



Chanukah Lights: Psalms for Hallel (Kindle Edition) by Rabbi Yael Levy

Rabbi Yael Levy, founder of Philadelphia's Jewish Mindfulness organization, *A Way In*, presents a translation of the psalms of Hallel. These psalms, traditionally recited on each morning of Hanukkah (as well as *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot*), are celebrations of wonder, awe, and creation. Rabbi Levy offers suggestions for using them as part of our *Hanukkah* ritual as "we call forth the light in ourselves and in each other."



The Essential Kabbalah: The Heart of Jewish Mysticism by Daniel C. Matt

While the study of Jewish mysticism has traditionally felt out of reach, this accessible translation is aimed at a wider audience. By including historical context along with a compact presentation of each primary text, Dr. Matt provides the reader with an insightful and practical analysis of various aspects of the *Kabbalah*. This book and others by Dr. Matt are available at the Adas library. Additional books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

That glimmer of light, surrounded by so many shadows, seemed to say without words: Evil has not yet taken complete dominion.
A spark of hope is still left. — Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Power of Light: Eight Stories for Hanukkah*

SPECIAL SERVICES & WORKSHOPS



Return Again to *Shabbat* with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander, Cantor Brown & The Return Again Band

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 @ 6:30 PM

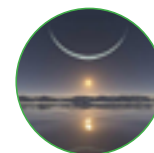
This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! Join us for a reflective journey into the power of *Shabbat*. The evening features seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song. A festive Israeli tapas-style meal follows. Please register for dinner on the JMCW Adas webpage.



Morning Awakening Led by Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

TUESDAYS @ 9:00 AM

Come join JMCW for an uplifting 45 minutes of mindful prayer and song as we begin the day together. Morning Awakening is a new take on the traditional Jewish morning service led by Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt. Start your Tuesday with a dose of mindfulness!



Rosh Chodesh: Celebrating The New Moon Led by Core JMCW Faculty

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 7:00–9:00 PM

Women of all ages, experiences, and identifications are invited to join 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. **Please register for this special offering on the JMCW Adas webpage.** This ongoing monthly offering is co-sponsored by the Adas Mikvah and usually includes an optional immersion in the *mikvah*. We are excited that the *mikvah* is being renovated this fall; please contact us if you need access to another *mikvah* in DC through the end of December and stay tuned for a beautiful (and accessible) space.

SPECIAL WEEKEND SCHOLAR!



God and the Big Bang and Other Topics in *Kabbalah* with Dr. Daniel Matt

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30–SUNDAY DECEMBER 2

Join us for an extraordinary opportunity to study with this preeminent *Kabbalah* scholar right here at Adas! Dr. Daniel Matt is one of the world's leading authorities on *Kabbalah* and the *Zohar*. He has been featured in *Time* and *Newsweek*, and has appeared on National Public Radio and the History Channel. He has published over a dozen books, including *The Essential Kabbalah* (translated into seven languages), *Zohar: Annotated and Explained*, and *God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality*. His nine-volume annotated translation of the *Zohar* (*The Zohar: Pritzker Edition*) has been hailed as "a monumental contribution to the history of Jewish thought." **For registration, updates, and additional information and offerings**, please visit the JMCW webpage at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/ or the JMCW Facebook Group. Please direct any questions to JMCW Director: Alesandra.Zsiba@adasisrael.org.



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!

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.

adasisrael.org/jmcw



From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON



Each time as I put pen to paper in this season, I will myself to not write about light. It is always the place that I am inclined to go (even when *Hanukkah* is not around the corner) and so imagine that it is what I share every year. But as I looked back over the Decembers I have spent here at Adas, I surprised myself as I found notes of a very different variety. We celebrated the learning of our students abroad in Israel, we delved deeply into the curriculum, and we shared holiday rituals, yet none of it was specifically about light. This is a humbling reminder to me that we are not always as self-aware as we imagine ourselves to be. The things that we hold in our hearts are often the things we forget to say because they feel so obvious to us. It is easy to fall into patterns, assuming that we are clearly communicating and connecting with those around us. But the work of sharing of ourselves and learning from others is never done. This year I am taking the time to look back and to clarify, and next year, I will write about light!



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 2: (during Religious School):
Dan Kaufman Memorial *Latke* Party

Tuesday, December 4:
Community Candlelighting with Religious School
(Connecticut Ave Patio), 5:45–6:15 pm

Wednesday, December 5:
Community Candlelighting with Religious School
(Connecticut Ave Patio), 5:45–6:15 pm

Wednesday, December 12:
Education Committee Meeting, Library, 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 16:
Last Day of Religious School for 2018

Tuesday, Dec. 18 – Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019:
Religious School Closed for Winter Break

Sunday, January 6:
Religious School resumes



MACCABIAH 5779 HAS BEGUN!

We're one month into Maccabiah, and our students are performing wonderfully! They're earning points through questions at *Shacharit* Live and *Ma'ariv* services, by checking out with their teachers at dismissal and using Hebrew words and phrases throughout the day in Religious School. It's incredible to see the participation and group work taking place throughout their time here. Check out the *Hanukkah* by the Education office to see your grade's progress in Maccabiah! Join us at the Dan Kaufman Memorial Latke Party as we honor grades that have earned points and unveil end-of-year prizes.

This month's Maccabiah challenge: Come to the Education office or an administrator and sing your grade's Dan Kaufman Memorial Latke Party song.

—Sarah Attermann, Youth and Family Educator

SEEING AND TEACHING EACH CHILD

If you are an auditory learner, you learn by hearing and listening. You understand and remember things you have heard. You store information by the way it sounds, and you have an easier time understanding spoken instructions than written ones. You often learn by reading out loud because you have to hear it or speak it in order to know it.

As an auditory learner, you might hum or talk to yourself or others if you become bored. People may think you're not paying attention, even though you may be hearing and understanding everything being said. Auditory learners:

- Like to read to themselves out loud.
- Are not afraid to speak in class.
- Like oral reports.
- Are good at explaining.
- Remember names.
- Notice sound effects in movies.
- Enjoy music.
- Are good at grammar and foreign languages.
- Read slowly.
- Follow spoken directions well.
- Can't keep quiet for long periods.
- Enjoy acting, being on stage.
- Are good in study groups.

Here are some ideas for auditory learners to help their learning:

- Sit where you can hear.
- Use flashcards to learn new words; read them out loud.
- Read stories, assignments, or directions out loud.
- Record yourself spelling words, and then listen to the recording.
- Have test questions read to you out loud.
- Study new material by reading it out loud.

Remember that you need to hear things, not just see things, in order to learn well.

—Pamela Gorin, Assistant Director of Education



Religious School students enjoy the sixth grade Shabbaton.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>2517 Kislev</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2618 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Miyan</div>	<div>2719 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2820 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Lunar Flow Yoga</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Class</div> <div>7:00 pmAdas Book Chat: Paula Shoyer</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>8:15 pmJSC Class</div>	<div>2921 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>3022 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown</div> <div>D'var Torah by Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Daniel Matt</div> <div>7:00 pmCommunity Dinner & Lecture by Dr. Daniel Matt</div>	<div>1 PARSHAT VAYESHEV23 Kislev</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service/Return Again Lite</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Kolko</div> <div>Sermon by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>Bar Mitzvah: Matthew Steindecker</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>12:00pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmMincha</div> <div>1:15 pmScholar-in-Residence w/ Dr. Daniel Matt</div> <div>5:28 pmHavdalah</div> <div>6:00 pmYP Havdalah & Zoo Lights</div>
<div>224 Kislev</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amScholar Dr. Daniel Matt</div> <div>10:30 amBeginner's Hebrew Class</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>325 Kislev</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>426 Kislev</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: Take Two, Two Takes</div>	<div>527 Kislev</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>628 Kislev</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>729 Kislev</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:00 pmTraditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service</div> <div>6:30 pmShir Delight Happy Hour</div> <div>7:00 pmHanukkah Oneg after Kabbalat Shabbat</div> <div>7:30 pmShir Delight Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Krinsky</div> <div>8:30 pmShir Delight Dinner</div>	<div>8 PARSHAT MIKETZ/HANUKKAH/ROSH CHODESH30 Kislev</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:15 amShabbat Morning & Hanukkah Service</div> <div>Bar Mitzvah: Zachary Bensky</div> <div>Sermon by Rabbi Krinsky</div> <div>9:15 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amKindergarten Consecration</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>2:15 pmMinyan Shabbaton Learning</div> <div>4:45 pmLight Seudah Shlishit & Havdalah</div> <div>5:27 pmHavdalah</div>
Erev Hanukkah						
<div>91Tevet</div> <div>8:45 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amAdas Book Chat</div> <div>10:30 amBeginner's Hebrew Class</div> <div>12:30 pmMachar Event</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>102Tevet</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>113Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>10:00 amWeekday Torah w/ Sisterhood</div> <div>12:00 pmDowntown Study Group</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmRosh Chodesh: Celebrating New Moon</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: Scholar Dena Weiss</div>	<div>124Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>135Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>146Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:30 pmReturn Again Service w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander</div> <div>8:00 pmCommunity Shabbat Dinner</div>	<div>15 PARSHAT VAYIGASH7 Tevet</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Return Again Service with Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>Bar Mitzvah: Alex Horowitz</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>D'var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>1:00 pmMakomDC: Halakhah Learning</div> <div>5:28 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>168 Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 amJMCW Wise Aging</div> <div>10:30 amBeginner's Hebrew Class</div> <div>2:00 pmDC Klezmer Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>179 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>1810 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmJMCW: Zohar</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: The Text</div> <div>7:30 pmMakom in the Home</div>	<div>1911 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow</div> <div>7:30 pmSisterhood Knits, Sews, Crafts</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>2012 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2113 Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmTraditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service</div>	<div>22 PARSHAT VAYECHI14 Tevet</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service/Shabbat in Harmony with Robyn Helzner; Sermon by Rabbi Krinsky</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>5:31Havdalah</div>
<div>2315 Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2416 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2517 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2618 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2719 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2820 Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmOneg Shabbat at Temple Micah</div> <div>6:30 pmJoint Community Service @ Temple Micah w/ Cantor Brown (NOTE: No Kabbalat Shabbat at Adas Israel)</div>	<div>29 PARSHAT SHEMOT21 Tevet</div> <div>9:30 amCombined Shabbat Smith/TEM Service</div> <div>D'var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>5:35 pmHavdalah</div>

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).



GAN SPOTLIGHT: THE *DUBIM* & *KOFIM* CLASSES

Gan HaYeled is a lively early childhood school, filled with children and teachers, learning, laughing, creating, and exploring each day. Within a school of this size, it is important to pause and take notice of the individuals that make up the beautiful whole.

The *Dubim* class is the entry point into the Gan for our youngest *Shanah* students. Carolyn Rogers, Ana Valdez, Espy Alameda, and Su Watson are the four caring, talented early childhood educators who create an optimal experience for some of our youngest students. Through a focus on connection, compassion, competency, and *middot* and *mitzvot*, the *Dubim* students soar.

The *Kofim* class welcomes many Gan two-year-olds into the *Onah* program. Ellen Ungerleider, Daniel DesLosReyes, and Rachel Vana can be found in the sun-filled classroom reading, playing, creating, and enjoying the individuality of each student. The *Kofim* students gain incredible competence and confidence through their time in the *Kofim* class.

A big *todah rabah* to the teachers of the *Dubim* and *Kofim* classes. Both classes truly embody the teaching of Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia philosophy, “Our image of the child is rich in potential, strong, powerful, competent, and most of all, connected to other adults and children.”



Dubim teachers: Ana, Su, Espy & Carolyn



Kofim teachers: Rachel, Ellen & Daniel

BEHREND-ADAS SENIORS FELLOWSHIP



COME FOR LUNCH AND STAY FOR FRIENDSHIP. ALL ARE WELCOME!

You are invited to join the Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship, a daily lunch and social program that meets at Adas Israel Monday through Friday. Come for coffee, tea, snacks, and camaraderie beginning at 10:30 am and stay for lunch at 12:00 pm. No need to RSVP, just show up and bring a friend!

Our daily program features a kosher lunch, exercise classes, film screenings, art classes, live entertainment, and a brief *Shabbat* service on Fridays. We host experts on health, nutrition, Judaic studies, elder law, cell phone photography, and offer individual computer, tablet, and smartphone lessons, and more. We even enjoy monthly ice cream socials!

This program is open to all seniors (ages 60+) residing in the District of Columbia. All are welcome, regardless of background or affiliation. The fellowship is run by the Edlavitch DCJCC's Manager of Senior Adult Programs, Kim Cauthen, in partnership with Adas Israel Congregation. **For more information contact Kim at seniorsd@edcjc.org, or visit www.edcjc.org/seniors.**

SNOW CLOSURES



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

When in doubt, visit adasisrael.org or call the synagogue/school for a taped message. If the synagogue offices are closed due to the snow, all daytime and evening programs are cancelled. If the schools are closed, but the building/offices are open, please call the synagogue office (202-362-4433) regarding evening programs and classes. The *minyan* typically meets twice daily, regardless of the weather, but again, please consult the website.



For more information and to register, visit
jewishstudycenter.org.
Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 pm & 8:15 pm

Book Talk: *Extremism, Ancient and Modern: Insurgency, Terror and Empire in the Middle East*

Wednesday, Dec. 5 @ 7 pm

Speaker: Sandra Scham

Middle Eastern history is often portrayed as a succession of empires and political orders harassed and occasionally brought down by violent opponents, usually labeled as terrorists at the time. This was true in ancient times as well as modern. And today's violent extremist groups resurrect historical narratives to fuel contemporary conflicts. How do 21st-century socio-political events and trends interact with ancient historical and archeological narratives in extremist movements? Dr. Sandra Scham will discuss what she learned researching these issues for her recent book, copies of which will be available for sale or order.

Sandra Scham is an adjunct associate professor of anthropology and archaeology at the Catholic University of America and a senior social science advisor to USAID and the Department of State. She lived in the Middle East for more than seven years, teaching and implementing Israeli-Arab exchange and peace-building projects. She has served as editor, contributing editor, and co-editor of three archaeological journals and has done archaeological and anthropological fieldwork in the Middle East, South America, Africa and Asia.

JSC, Adas members \$15, others \$20 (F-14)

The Janice Garfunkel Memorial Lecture: The Role of (Female) Clergy in the Age of Trump

Wednesday, Dec. 12 @ 7:00 pm

Rabbi Avi Strausberg in conversation with Rabbi Shira Stutman, Senior Rabbi, Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, and others to be announced

Rabbis and clergy of all religions and denominations have struggled to adjust to a new and more polarized political environment. In many areas of political protest—from rallies against family separation at the border to anti-Trump demonstrations in London—female rabbis are front and center. Is this a surprising development, or was it inevitable? Do female

clergy have a special responsibility in divisive times, or is this a responsibility all clergy share?

Moderator Avi Strausberg is director of National Learning Initiatives for the Hadar Institute.

Rabbi Shira Stutman is Senior Rabbi at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue.

Free and open to the public, with refreshments! (F-15)

Janice Garfunkel (z"l), a Reform rabbi who was director of the Jewish Study Center in the 1990s, passed away in October 2013 after a long battle with cancer. She was a valued member of many local communities, including Adas Israel's Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, and a mother of two young daughters. The Study Center established these lectures with support from her friends and family as an ongoing tribute to values she held dear, including education, women's opportunities, families traditional and nontraditional, and care for the sick.

Up Close & Personal

*Share Your Special Family Collections
In Our Biran Beit Midrash*



The *Biran Beit Midrash*, at the heart of our synagogue, is a place of community, learning, and conversation. Following this theme, over the next year we would like to share your special family collections in our ever-changing *Biran Beit Midrash* window.

Our current display features a sampling of Myra and Larry Promisel's imaginative and inspiring collection of *Hanukkiot*. What can you share for six weeks?

Contact us at adasevents@adasisrael.org to display something special and for more information.



sisterhoodnews

NETWORKING, NURTURING, LEARNING, SUSTAINING



Torah Fund

By Betty Adler, Torah Fund Chair

During the High Holy Days, at the culmination of *Simchat Torah*, we rejoiced, having completed another reading of the full Torah and beginning again a new year of reading all the chapters of the Torah, with a new opportunity to learn so much from our beloved rabbis.

Each time we participate in a program at Adas Israel, whether it is a service, a community event, a *simcha*, or a funeral, we appreciate our rabbis and teachers anew. They have all studied at one of the Conservative Movement's seminaries. Not only are we blessed to have them at our synagogue, we are the reason they are here. They have chosen to receive and transmit Torah as part of their daily lives. The learning, studying, internships, etc., they have undertaken to get here are intense, and we are certainly the beneficiaries of their efforts. When our rabbis may have needed financial assistance to complete their studies or participate in a special program they have been able to get the help without having to compromise their studies.

These available funds are made possible through the generosity of the Women's League Torah Fund. Started in 1942 as a scholarship fund, in 1963 the Torah Fund merged with the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall campaign, which provided housing for undergraduate students. Torah Fund supports Jewish learning at the college and graduate schools, and rabbinical, cantorial, and chaplaincy programs. The recipients of this support become the rabbis, cantors, educators, chaplains, summer camp directors, scholars, and leaders of the Jewish world.

This year, Adas Israel's Sisterhood would like to raise \$12,000 for the Torah Fund. To do so, we depend on each of you to contribute what you can to help us achieve this goal. Contributions start at \$18 and go up to \$5,000.

Contribution levels are:

Multiples of Chai	\$18 / \$36 / \$54 / \$72
Benefactor	\$180 (Pin given)
Guardian	\$300 (Pin with Pearl)
Associate Patron	\$600 (Pin with Ruby)
Patron	\$1,200 (Pin with Diamond)
Scholarship Patron	\$2,500 (Pin with Emerald)
Keter Kavod	\$5,000 (Crown of Honor)

Torah Fund provides scholarships and program support to five seminaries: the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York, NY), the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles, CA), the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), the Seminario Rabinico Latino Americano (Buenos Aires), and the newest school, the Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam, Germany.) Each program offers superb formal education and informal experiences in Jewish living and community-building for our future leaders.

Donors who give a minimum of \$180 will receive a newly designed pin. This year's pin features the Hebrew word *atid* (future) within a stylized *Magen David*. It represents our wish for a Jewish future for ourselves, our families, and our communities. In classic rabbinic texts, the word *atid* often appears in the phrase "*le'atid lavo*," which means "in the future to come." This refers either to the time when the Messiah will come, or *olam haba*, the afterlife. Today, Israelis say with optimism, "*Yesh atid*," which means "there is a future!"

In that spirit, we are grateful for all that our rabbis and teachers do to help us understand and respond to life's challenges while looking toward the future to the next generations of rabbis, cantors, and teachers who will continue to provide the leadership and soul of future Jewish communities and synagogues.



1. A riveting discussion about what's at stake for women as we face a new Supreme Court and the upcoming midterm elections. Special thanks to Jeanne Herman Ellinport, Jody Rabhan, and Guila Franklin Siegel from the National Council for Jewish Women and the JCRC.



2. Author and professor Faye Moskowitz shares her wisdom on memoir writing and preserving your family story at Sisterhood's Opening Event on October 14.

3. Members of Sisterhood enjoyed the first Talk A Walk! Event of the season on October 8, coordinated by Rona Walters. Helen Kramer gave a tour of the historic Logan Circle neighborhood and the colorful Blagden Alley.



Your contribution assists in preserving, promoting, and perpetuating Conservative/Masorti Judaism through active giving to the **Torah Fund Campaign**.

Please make your Torah Fund contributions through the Sisterhood page on the Adas Israel website or contact me directly at bettyadler1@gmail.com or 240-899-2945.

Thank you for helping us enable talented and committed students to become our clergy and educators.



Sisterhood Weekday Torah Study

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 10:00 AM, FUNGER HALL

Sisterhood's Weekday Torah will meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday December 11, in Fungler Hall. Community leader and scholar Norman Shore will teach about Rabbi Abbahu of Caesarea, a 4th-century rabbi known as a leading scholar, storyteller, confidant of the Roman government, and debater with Christians. The class will examine questions brought up by Abbahu's work such as: Does the Torah say you should send your daughters to finishing school? How should you treat a jealous colleague?

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood is an engaging approach to traditional Hebrew text study that offers participants the opportunity to study and discuss challenging texts and ideas. This class is open to the entire Adas Israel community. Classes are monthly, except in the summer, and usually meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. For more information, contact MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com.



Tallit Workshop

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 @ 7:30 PM

For those interested in making a *tallit*, this workshop, on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:30 pm, will explore the use of silk to make *tallitot* and *tallit* bags. We will have a guest who will share her beautiful products and experience working with silk fabric. All are welcome to join us in the Youth Lounge at 7:30 pm to schmooze, continue working on your own projects, or learn with us. For more information contact Lesley Frost, lesleyfrost0@gmail.com.

ruth & simon albert

sisterhood gift shop

This *Hanukkah*, we are cooperating in a special Hesed Committee undertaking. We are offering gorgeous aprons, and proceeds from the sale of these one-of-a-kind items will enable the Hesed Committee to continue its outstanding work. Of course, it's not too late to stock up on other holidays needs as well.

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

Every purchase benefits
Adas Israel Congregation.
202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com
Note: We will be closed
on December 23, 25, and 30.





tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Help Feed Our Neighbors at Miriam's House

Continuing our longtime support of N Street Village's programs for homeless and formerly homeless DC residents, Adas Israel has begun providing monthly dinners for Miriam's House, a long-term housing facility for up to 20 women living with HIV/AIDS. We need your help to make our dinners a success!

You can volunteer to bring food, help set up and clean up, or do both. Each month we need volunteers who can cook and drop off food at a common location in advance of the dinner and four to six others who will come to Miriam's Place (near Adams Morgan) on Sunday, 5:00–7:00 pm to heat, serve, and clean up the dinner. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Several families can volunteer to take responsibility for one dinner; you can cook at one of your homes and bring the food, or you are welcome to cook at Miriam's Place. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laura Epstein (Laura_Epstein@hotmail.com) and ask to be added to the e-mail list of potential volunteers.



Longtime Adas member Harriet Isack and new member Coline Guedj prepare lunch plates (left) and new social action chair Brad Brooks-Rubin cleans up after the breakfast meal that Adas volunteers helped prepare and serve (right).

Introducing the Racial Justice Working Group

The Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) at Adas Israel has been examining internal and external feelings and attitudes toward race and racism within American society as a whole and in our congregation as well as in the context of the larger Jewish community. This work has prompted a small group to look inside and outside the congregation to explore the relationship

and parallels between social justice work and anti-racism work.

Jewish congregations have a long history of important social justice work. The RJWG seeks to continue this tradition by exploring the history of racism and how it is internalized in each of us. To fulfill this purpose, we will build bridges, reduce gaps, and find common ground in ensuring that we do our part to pursue racial justice within both the Jewish community and the community at large.

Come join us as we discuss books, movies, and the pathway to a more equitable world, and develop additional opportunities for learning, self-reflection, and action in the coming year. Interested? Please contact co-chairs Lauren Queen (laurenqueen526@gmail.com) or Stephen Horblitt (horblitt4126@comcast.net).

INCLUSION UPDATE

Save the Date!

Inclusion Celebration *Shabbat* with Dr. Julia Watts Belser



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Julia Watts Belser, our guest speaker on Inclusion Celebration *Shabbat*, February 2, 2019. We look forward to hearing her *d'var Torah* in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary service and to continuing a conversation with her, after *kiddush*, in the Biran Beit Midrash.

Julia Watts Belser is an associate professor in the theology department at Georgetown University. Her work in Jewish studies focuses on Talmud,

rabbinic literature, and Jewish ethics. An ordained rabbi, Dr. Watts Belser writes queer feminist Jewish theology and brings disability culture into conversation with Jewish tradition. Dr. Watts Belser previously was a research fellow in women's studies and religion at Harvard Divinity School and taught in Missouri State University's Religious Studies Department.

She is the author of *Power, Ethics, and Ecology in Jewish Late Antiquity: Rabbinic Responses to Drought and Disaster* (2015). She serves on the board of the Society for Jewish Ethics and holds leadership positions in the American Academy of Religion. A wheelchair rider herself, Dr. Watts Belser is the co-author of



A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities. She is also a board member of Nehirim, a national community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Jews and allies. She has a BA from Cornell University, an MDiv from the Graduate Theological Union, an MA from the Academy for Jewish Religion California, and a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and the Graduate Theological Union.

ANNE FRANK HOUSE



Anne Frank House is grateful to the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and the Adas Israel community for their fabulous support of the October 28 miniwalk. A special shout-out to Rabbi Kerrith Solomon, Sarah Atterman, Pamela Gorin, and other members of the Adas Israel leadership and staff for making the day an incredible success.

As 2018 draws to a close, Anne Frank House wants to thank the entire Adas Israel community for its support and generosity this year.

As all of you plan your year-end contributions, please consider a contribution to Anne Frank House.

Anne Frank House, on a budget of about \$12,000 per resident per year:

- houses 11 formerly homeless people in attractive apartments;
- furnishes the apartments;
- pays for medical, psychiatric, and social services; and
- supports the residents with phone calls, visits, holiday meals, and other assistance.

In this time of diminishing available financial support, we are depending on your contribution more than ever to help us maintain our program. We hope to acquire a new condominium in the next year or two for another new resident in the near future. Our long-range goal remains to grow our client base to 14 residents by 2020, while continuing to operate as an all-volunteer organization, serving men and women with chronic mental illness.

In these still uncertain financial times, your support is especially important. Contributions by check may be sent to Anne Frank House, c/o Adas Israel, 2850 Quebec Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, or can be made online at <http://www.theannefrankhouse.org/donate.html>.

Please give generously.

Thank you!



**Navigating the Unexpected:
The Jewish Journey Through Adversity, Loss and Grief
Wed, December 5 at 7:30 PM**

Please join the Adas Israel Hesed Committee and the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing for a meaningful workshop about life's unexpected twists and turns. How do we navigate the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, an unexpected injury or illness, the end of a relationship, repeated attempts at fertility, and the many unfamiliar and unexpected situations that life can bring? No cost, but please register online at adasisrael.org/hesed.

- Learn where and how to find support.
- Understand the impact of the 'unexpected' on you and your loved ones.
- Integrate the Jewish perspective on challenging life experiences.



continued on next page . . .



Member Ambassadors Are Here to Help

Have you ever been to a *Shabbat kiddush* and looked out at a sea of people but were not sure if you knew anyone? Have you ever been to an educational program and noticed someone interesting you wanted to talk to but did not know who he or she was? The Adas Member Ambassadors are here to the rescue!

The Member Connector Committee is launching a new project to help connect old-time members with newbies, frequent attendees with occasional participants, familiar faces with new ones. The Member Ambassador Team—whose members are identified by their distinctive “I’m Here to Help” pins—will be circulating at Adas events such as the weekly *kiddush*, educational activities, and other gatherings. The goal is to help make member-to-member connections. Member Ambassadors are also able to answer questions and will always try to be helpful in making each Adas experience a friendly one. Adas wants to be a community where we are always expanding the circle of whom we know.

For those who follow the maxim, “Make New Friends but Keep the Old, One Is Silver and the Other Gold,” this is a perfect opportunity for you to network and connect with people you don’t know, or sort of know, or would like to know. For a *shul* as big as Adas, connections are made one person at a time. We hope that when a Member Ambassador approaches, you will greet him or her with a warm smile and a willingness to meet someone new.

Even better, **please volunteer to become a Member Ambassador!** It’s a fun and easy way to get to know people at Adas.

Hesed Celebrates Adas Staff



As we sit in *shul* over the High Holy Days and have many deeply spiritual experiences, do you ever think about how it all comes together? The beauty of the services, which run so smoothly and professionally (using practically every inch of space in the building), requires many (many, many) hours of coordination and hard work by our clergy and staff. From preparing the beautiful materials to guiding us through the service, to managing the distribution of tickets and informational brochures, to creating meaningful sermons, to making sure every prayer space has books available, to setting up chairs and tables, and on and on. All of that work is done with smiles and good will; it’s quite something to think about. How do they do it?

It all comes together because of the dedication of the clergy and staff. They work **SO** hard. How is it possible to thank them enough?

In early October, the Hesed Committee did its best to say thank you on behalf of all Adas members. The Hesed Cooking Team whipped up a delicious meal that was served to all clergy and staff as a way to say thank you. Every staff member was welcomed with a smile and a yummy lunch of vegetable stew, spinach kugel, fresh salad, chocolate bread, honey cake, and fresh fruit. Additionally, through a generous donation from a grateful Adas member, every person on the staff including all custodians and security team members received an Amazon gift certificate plus a sweet treat to take home with them.

There will never be enough ways to truly say how grateful we are to everyone at Adas who makes it such a special place. We sincerely thank all the clergy and staff for the amazing work they do to make the High Holy Days so meaningful. *Todah rabah*.



Hesed Aprons—The Best Hanukkah Gift!

Are you scrambling to find a last-minute *Hanukkah* gift for your loved one? For a unique *Hanukkah* gift for the cooks you admire, the beautiful and stylish Hesed aprons are available for sale in the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Give a gift and do a *mitzvah*. Proceeds from the sale of the aprons will go toward supporting future Hesed cooking projects, \$18 plus tax.



Ma Tovu Steven Miller

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Senior Director, Engagement & Programming Operations

Steve, you joined Adas in 1983. How long have you been living in the DC area and what brought you to Adas?

I have been living in the DC area since 1977. I joined Adas because of the outstanding clergy at the time (Rabbis Stanley Rabinowitz and Stephen Listfield and Cantor Arnold Saltzman); innovative musical programs (e.g., *Selichot*, featured on TV one year and recorded on an LP); variety of services, including Rabbi Reuven Hammer’s annual visit from Israel; outstanding speakers; social programs, including programs for singles; the Men’s Club; and proximity to the Metro.

You have been a High Holy Day volunteer usher for many years. What do you like most about ushering on these days and helping our congregants? Do you have a favorite part of the service during which you prefer not to usher?

I like meeting and greeting the congregants, saying hello to old friends and distinguished visitors and members, including those with accessibility needs, and making all feel welcome. I don’t have a favorite part of the service. I enjoy ushering at any time, and during the High Holidays this year, I actually ushered extra shifts when needed.

You live in the Crystal City neighborhood of Arlington, VA. That area has had a big makeover in the last few years. What do you like most about that community? Do you have any favorite restaurants you recommend?

It is vibrant and in a state of becoming; there are plans for movie theaters like E-Street Cinema, Trader Joe’s, outdoor cafes, a new Metro entrance, and a regional transit station with Amtrak and high-speed rail and expanded regional rail, including VRE and MARC. Amazon may even relocate there. It has excellent public transportation, so a resident can get around without a car. The underground allows for all-weather access to the Metro, residences, and many shops and services. The restaurants I enjoy the most are: Jaleo, McCormick and Schmick’s, Kora, We, The Pizza, Legal Seafood, Morton’s The Steakhouse, Neramitria Thai Cuisine, Starbucks, Rice Bar, Au Bon Pain, and Subway and the list goes on and on.

Many of our community members have benefited from the CPR course you coordinate each High Holy Day season. How did you get involved in organizing this, and why do you think it’s so important to offer?

I was invited to coordinate it in 1985 by Irving Jacobs, who was then president of the Men’s Club, which sponsored the program. I had just coordinated a highly successful Passover *Seder* for Seniors sponsored by the Adas Israel Singles, and he

thought I would do a good job. I guess he was right, since I have coordinated it every year since then. At that time, the course was taught by Sandy Mendelson and Ben Manchester. Sandy has been a member of the congregation since before he was born and still contributes to the program from time to time. It is important for Adas to offer this course as both training to the High Holiday ushers, and as a community service to those for whom the training would be beneficial either personally or professionally. It provides human resources to address an incident in addition to the professional security staff and nearby first responders. Time is of the essence in responding to a heart attack or to choking.

***Hanukkah* begins in early December this year. What were some of your favorite *Hanukkah* traditions as a kid? How do you like to celebrate the holiday as an adult?**

As a kid, I enjoyed saying the blessings, spending time with family, eating potato *latkes* with apple sauce and sour cream, giving gifts, singing “I have a little *dreidel*,” playing games, receiving chocolate *gelt*, etc. I also enjoyed lighting a silver *menorah* with candles, which also played songs. Later, for convenience, I acquired an electric one with light bulbs. As an adult, I like to celebrate *Hanukkah* at Adas, or with friends and at other synagogues if out of town.

***Latkes* are a *Hanukkah* food staple. Are you an applesauce or sour cream kind of guy?**

I enjoy either, depending on the rest of the meal.

How many *Hanukkiot* do you have at home, and which is your favorite one?

I have several and I have lost count. LOL. My favorite is a no-frills, traditional one with candles.

Adas Office Closing

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25
Schools/Offices Closed

Ripple: One Person, One Community At A Time

BY SARA R. VOGLER



Sarah Waxman speaks to a group about Jewish ritual technologies she uses to support her mental health.

Lifetime Adas member Sarah Waxman is the founder of At the Well, a network of monthly Well Circles that connect women to body, soul, and community through wellness education and Jewish spirituality. At the Well activates Jewish wisdom to create a worldwide network of safe spaces, resources, and works to inspire women to empower themselves, live whole lives, and lift each other up.

My first encounter with Sarah Waxman was greeted with a big, giant hug!! I was elated to have arrived at Timbrel, a spiritual retreat in December 2017/Kislev 5778. So much joy and love filled a red tent, which I have been remembering and reigniting into parts of my life. Lessons about self-care and self-love erupted into dancing and live music.

Interviewing Sarah Waxman for the Chronicle was another opportunity for a giant hug. We had the following conversation one day in June 2018/Tammuz 5778 and recently reconnected at Wisdom and Wellness, a joint program of the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington, the Adas Israel Community Mikvah, and At the Well.

What was your spiritual/religious background growing up?

I grew up at Adas Israel, attended Quaker school, went to Hebrew school, kept kosher, went to high holiday services, celebrated my bat mitzvah, and had a strong home practice, which was important to my family. But I didn't have a language for what spirituality meant yet; this happened much later. I was disconnected from my body, from my Jewish spiritual connection, and from a crew of people who made me feel like I belonged. In college I played lacrosse. Being part of a team was somewhat of a spiritual practice, but after school I studied yoga and Eastern Meditation. I was exposed to the word "spirituality" and begun a serious quest to cultivate that in myself.

What made you create At the Well? Why do you think it is as important to people as it has become?

I was introduced to the new moon marking of time, *Rosh Chodesh* in my late 20s. It's a women's ritual holiday, taking place each month around the new moon. There have only ever been four books written in English about *Rosh Chodesh*, and before I started At the Well, there was a 30-year gap of any thought or information. This made this ritual almost impossible to practice. I was frustrated because I think the collective power of a monthly women's circle has the potential to change women's health, mental health, and perhaps the world.

How will the ritual of celebrating Rosh Chodesh change the women's lives?

It helps women organize spaces where they feel supported and capable of being bold. It uses Jewish wisdom as a strategy to feel good and whole. It creates access points to Jewish practice through year and through the body. And it shakes up the *Niddah* ritual and in so doing, affects women's physical health and spiritual wellness. So I took action and created a newsletter that went out a week before each New Moon. I thought I could have a greater impact on my peers if I did this online, organic, and from my heart. So that's where At the Well began, my coming close to Jewish spiritual time, and inviting others to join me. My mission is to help anybody who wants to be in a Well Circle to have resources to do so. In 10 years, expect a neuroscience research study on the health benefits of Well Circles!

How did Adas Israel play a role in the formation of At the Well?

Dozens of people from Adas Israel have helped shape me and my Jewish wisdom, and have made significant donations to our mission. Special shout-outs to Micki Simon, Rabbi Holtzblatt, and Naomi Malka, and serious gratitude for all the others. Also, very important to say: Debbie Goldberg and Seth Waxman, my INCREDIBLE parents who raised me to use my tradition to connect with them, myself, and perhaps use as fuel to change the world. At the Well would truly not exist without their unconditional love and their belief in me.



YP@AI
youngprofessionals/adasisrael

a community for young Jewish adults.

singles can meet singles, couples can meet couples,
newcomers can connect with other newcomers.

What's Happening This Winter at YP@AI?!



The Young Professionals Community at Adas Israel (YP@AI) is aimed at those between the ages of 21 and 35 to introduce them to all that Adas has to offer. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who help plan and coordinate all of our events and have helped to inspire new programming for the larger Adas community. After a busy fall, here's what we've planned for the winter:

- Celebrate *Shabbat* together as a community every first Friday at Shir Delight. **December 7** (we'll celebrate *Hanukkah* too!), **January 4 & February 1**.
- Help us serve meals to women at Patricia Handy Place every third Sunday.
- Join us for Ugly Holiday Sweater + *Havdalah* and Zoolights, **Saturday, December 1**.
- Learn with Rabbi Holtzblatt, **Sunday, January 13, 10:00 am**.
- Sign up for a coffee date with one of our YP members and learn more about Adas and the YP Jewish community.
- Sweat for a cause on **Sunday, February 17, 11:00 am**. Come for a great workout; all proceeds go to N Street Village.
- Attend any event, service, or class that interests you, even if it's not just for YPs!

If you have any questions about YP@AI and getting more involved, please e-mail us at YP@adasisrael.org.

learn more online:

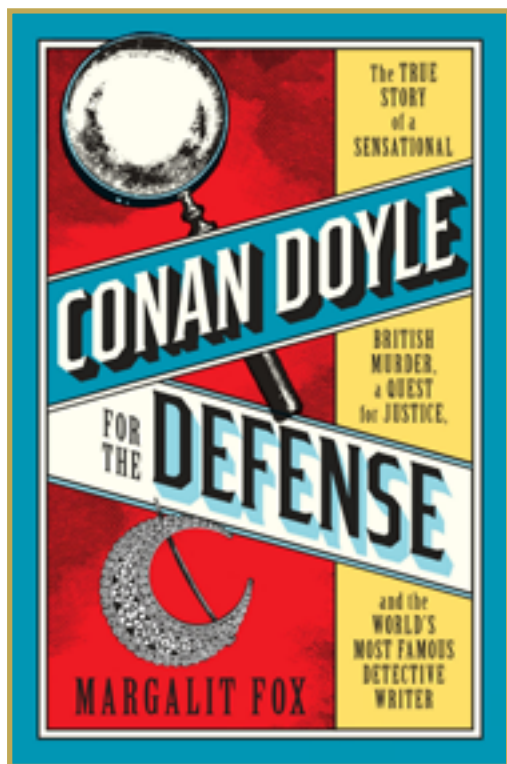
adasisrael.org/YP



Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

Calling Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Jewish Gambler

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



Fans of British mysteries, especially of the Sherlock Holmes variety, will relish **Conan Doyle for the Defense** by Margalit Fox. This is a true story about Arthur Conan Doyle (the author of the Sherlock Holmes tales) and his successful pursuit of justice for a Jewish man wrongly convicted of murder in early 20th-century Scotland. Come to find out, Conan Doyle (he used a double surname) not only wrote mysteries, but he actually solved real ones using the techniques of his famous detective. Fox, a longtime New York Times writer of obituaries, masterfully deploys her skill for characterizing bygone individuals and cultural milieus in this real-life whodunit.

A DASTARDLY MURDER IN GLASGOW

On December 21, 1908, Marion Gilchrist, a wealthy, elderly woman, was brutally bludgeoned to death in her elegant Glasgow apartment by an unknown intruder. Her maid testified that the only item missing was a crescent-shaped diamond brooch. Police were quick to suspect a new and undesirable resident of Glasgow, Oscar Slater, a German Jewish immigrant reputed to be a gambler and living with a French prostitute. Much to his misfortune, Slater had recently pawned a diamond brooch.

Although the police soon learned that Slater's brooch was not the stolen one, they continued to build a case against him. As Fox tells it, Slater was a convenient solution to a high-profile case at a time when anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic sentiment was rife. Respected Scottish publications warned of "foreign scum" and "alien vampires." Police and prosecutors so wanted Slater to be judged guilty that they manipulated witnesses, suppressed exculpatory evidence, and suborned perjury.



The trial judge compounded the travesty by instructing the jury that a man of Slater's background was not entitled to the usual presumption of innocence.

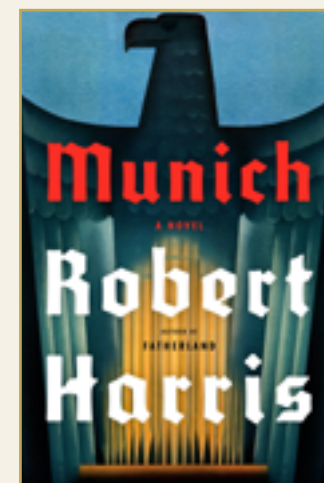
Predictably, in May 1909 Slater was found guilty and sentenced to hang. Reacting to public unease over the verdict, King Edward commuted Slater's sentence to life at hard labor. In 1925, after years of suffering in a grim prison ominously described as "Scotland's gulag," Slater sent a secret plea for help to Conan Doyle. Slater cleverly arranged to smuggle out of prison a tiny folded note hidden beneath the dentures of a fellow prisoner about to be paroled.

AUTHOR-DETECTIVE CONAN DOYLE

A respected physician, Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930) achieved renown for his Sherlock Holmes stories. One of Conan Doyle's medical school professors, Dr. Joseph Bell, was the inspiration for the character of Sherlock. Bell, a diagnostician of astounding ability, was a keen observer of minute details and a disciplined practitioner of logical reasoning. As Sherlock Holmes's fame spread, Conan Doyle was inundated with requests for help in solving actual mysteries, some of which he accepted, winning acclaim as a champion of lost causes.

Conan Doyle had long been sympathetic to Slater, calling his conviction a "supreme example of official incompetence and obstinacy." In 1912, he published a book demolishing the prosecution's case, based on a thorough, Sherlock Holmes-like analysis of the trial transcript and witness interviews. Although this effort on Slater's behalf had borne no fruit, when Slater's prison friend delivered his secret message, Conan Doyle agreed to take up the cause again.

Conan Doyle reentered the fray with *The Truth About Oscar Slater*, an exposé by journalist William Park that Conan Doyle edited, published, and introduced. Conan Doyle made sure that powerful British officials and influential journalists received copies. It helped Conan Doyle's lobbying effort that many guilty of framing Slater were now dead. At long last, after nearly two decades, the British government, embarrassed, released Slater from prison in November 1927.



ADAS BOOK CHAT ON *MUNICH* BY ROBERT HARRIS

Sunday, January 13, 10:00-11:00 am

Join us to discuss this historical thriller, based on actual events surrounding the infamous Munich Agreement of 1938. European leaders vainly attempted to appease Hitler by allowing him to annex part of Czechoslovakia. Praised by reviewers, the novel offers an "exhilarating mix of diplomacy and derring-do" while hewing closely to historical detail.

Book chats are jointly sponsored by Sisterhood and the Library and are open to the community. All welcome!

Questions? Contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).



BIRTHS

Lena Iris Kimmel, daughter of Rachel Bernard & Seth Kimmel and granddaughter of Jean & Larry Bernard, was born September 7.
Yael Sharabi, daughter of Zvi Sharabi & Lydia Polimeni, was born September 15.
Rebecca Mae Fischman, daughter of Lauren & Adam Fischman, was born September 24.
Sylvie Blake, daughter of Robert & Laura Friedman, was born September 30.
Elijah, son of Jeffrey Davis & Deborah List, was born October 8.
Daniel Andreatta, son of Antonio Levy & Rose Andreatta, was born October 9.
Rafael Lleras Levy, son of Juan Lleras & Roxanne Levy, was born October 13.

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

B'NAI MITZVAH



Rachel Kolko, *December 1*
Rachel, the daughter of Joshua and Lauren Kolko, is a seventh grader at Deal Middle School. She celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her brother, Jake; grandparents Arnold and Karen Markoe, Naomi Greenwood, and Linda Borst Kolko; and other family members and friends. She remembers especially at this time her grandfather, Burton Kolko, of blessed memory, for whom she is named and whose neckties she incorporated into the *tallit* she made and will wear at her *bat mitzvah*. Rachel began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and has been a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten. For her *bat mitzvah* project, she plans to help people with cognitive disabilities learn marketable baking and decorating skills at the Sunflower Bakery in Gaithersburg.



Matthew Steindecker, *December 1 (TEM)*
Matthew, son of Beth and Jeremy Steindecker, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and continued it at JPDS-NC. By far, his favorite time of the year is summer at Camp Avoda, a Jewish boys' sports summer camp, in Middleboro, MA. He shares his *simcha* with his parents, his brother Leo; his grandparents, Shelly Mantz and Rebecca and John Steindecker; and his extended family and friends. Matthew enjoys playing many sports, including baseball, spending time with friends, and traveling. At this special time, he thinks lovingly of his late grandfather Mel Mantz (z"l), after whom he was named.



Zachary Thomas Bensky, *December 8*
Zach, son of Eric Bensky and Amber Cottle, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. He is a graduate of Gan HaYeled and Janney Elementary School. Since kindergarten, he has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, where he is currently a student in the Ma'alot program. He plays chess, Scrabble, baseball, and basketball. He is sharing his *simcha* with his brother Sam, his grandparents, and other family and friends.



Alexander Horowitz, *December 15*
Alexander, son of Stephanie Kay and Jeffrey Horowitz, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School and a student at Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. His great passions are *Star Wars*, video games, enjoying time spent with his friends, and playing piano. His goal is to become an astrobiologist. He is joined at this *simcha* by his grandmother Bessie Kay, as well as extended family and his many friends from DC and the New York area. His *mitzvah* project is working with students in his alma mater, Stoddard Elementary School, in a Saturday morning math tutoring program.

MAZEL TOV

Myra and Larry Promisel, on the *bar mitzvah* of their grandson, Reed Spencer Promisel, on November 3 in New Jersey.



IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:
Robert Gratz
Florence Herman
Robert Pitofsky
Charlotte Teicher

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Miriam Fromberg, mother of Tzipy Fromberg
Anita Lapping, mother of Ron Lapping
Ruth Rosenthal Preuss, wife of Peter Preuss
Harvey Taylor, father of Andrew Taylor
Joseph Tydings, father of Alexandra Luzzatto

LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION



When Death Occurs
When death occurs, please call the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, so that we may inform the clergy and be of assistance. During business hours, ask for Marcy Spiro. 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.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah
During this fall's renovation, all *mikvah* appointments will take place at Mikvah Chaim at Ohev Sholom on 16th Street NW. Mikvah Chaim has generously agreed to host us while we are offline. Please contact Mikvah@adasisrael.org for help with scheduling your appointment there.

Also, please save Wednesday, January 30, 7:00–9:00 pm, for **Mayim B'Sasson: A Joyful Mikvah Rededication Ceremony**. Join us for an evening of blessings, singing, storytelling, and honoring our Mikvah Guides. The newly renovated, fully accessible space will be open for all to see. Reception and hors d'oeuvres at 7:00 pm and ceremony/storytelling at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Days For Girls Initiative, Jan. 13
In many developing countries around the world, young girls have limited or no access to feminine menstrual care products. We hope you will join us on January 13, 2019, to help make it possible for some of these girls to get the kind of menstrual products they need. We are doing this as part of an initiative organized by Days for Girls, which provides feminine menstrual care products, along with menstrual health education, to young girls in developing countries.

This program is organized by one of Adas Israel's awesome teens, Shifra Waskow, and is being co-sponsored by the Adas Israel Community Mikvah and the Sisterhood Sewing Circle. The mikvah is co-sponsoring this event to bring dignity to women's cycles in other communities and shine a light on how the mikvah brings meaning and spirituality to women's cycles in our community. This kit-making event will be Sunday, January 13, 2019, 1:00–4:00 pm. For this event, we need both material and talents! We need people to bring and operate sewing machines, irons, and ironing boards, measuring boards, scissors, pins, etc. However, these skills are not necessary to be involved; everyone's help is wanted and welcomed!

Please e-mail shifrawaskow@gmail.com or naomi.malka@adasisrael.org if you are interested in bringing or operating any of the materials listed above. If you are interested, please sign up at <https://www.adasisrael.org/event/day-for-girls.html>. We hope to see you there!



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Anne Frank House Fund

By: Pranil Acharya, Howard Barshow, Melissa Blume, Megan Brown, Rosalyn Doggett, Glenn Dubin, Karin Freedman, Steven & Jane Gilbert, David Gossett, Julie Horowitz, Kenneth & Kathy Ingber, Grossberg, Yochelson, Fox & Beyda LLP, Alan Meltzer, Sander & Adina Mendelson, Michael Muldowney, Toba Penny, Carolyn Rogers, Sebastian Saldana, Stanley M. Salus, Deborah Samenow, Ronald & Debbie Sann, Dan Sokolov, John Speaks, Elyse Wasch, Loribeth Weinstein, Bertram Weintraub.

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Bernard & Rita Segerman Endowment Fund

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B'Yahad Special Needs Fund

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Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

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In Memory Of: **Harvey Taylor** by Roz Doggett.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

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Daily Minyan Fund

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Debra Goldberg Educational Fund

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Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund

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Executive Director Discretionary Fund

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Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

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Garden of the Righteous

In Memory Of: **Flo Herman, David Cook** by Judy Strauch.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

For the Speedy Recovery Of: **Harry Linowes** by Ricki Gerger.

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Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund

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Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund

In Honor Of: **Daniela Klein** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Lisa & Alvin Dunn. **Margie Siegel** by Richard Solloway. **Joyce & Michael Stern's** 50th anniversary by Nechama & William Liss-Levenson.
In Recognition Of: *Simchat Torah* honors of **Irv Lebow, Jessica Nemeth, & Janet Scribner** by Joyce & Michael Stern.
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In Memory Of: **Linda Rodgers Yarborough** by Jamie & Stuart Butler. **Yetta Goldman** by Carolyn Goldman.

Hymen & Sadie Goldman Prayer Book Fund

In Memory Of: **Bernard Bobb** by Stanley & Sandy Bobb.

Jewish Mindfulness Center

By: Stacy Kaye.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Memory Of: **Florence Herman** by Rhoda Ganz.

MakomDC

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Offerings Fund

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Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

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Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

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Rise & Ronald Schlesinger Music Fund

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In Memory Of: **Myron Madden** by Dale & Alan Sorcher.

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Social Action Fund

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