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
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/messages. 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 around where you are, go visit someone who does. Your world

For the third night, make a plan to give back to your community. Better, you’ll bring someone a lot of happiness. Some folks who don’t; you’ll get lots of service (or just the sermon if you prefer) by going to adasisrael.org/messages. Give yourself this gift.

For 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, even 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 books: Fear (Bob Woodward), A Horse Walks into a Bar (David Grossman), October 1964 (David Halberstam), Shmivrah Halashon (Yisrael Meir Kagani), Paper (Andrew Starek), or The Future of Business (Bian Solomon). 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, joyous Hanukkah!

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.

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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, joyous Hanukkah!

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 woody 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 from home. 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 the way for you, as you illuminate the path for others?

I wish you and your families a happy Hanukkah!
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 religious freedom.

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 ushered 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; candlelighting 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. Haftarah 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.
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 7:30 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 rabbincal 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 art 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?

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

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 Ariane 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 Friedman 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.

The Chronicle
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December 2017

December 2018
MakomDC 2018–19 Season

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.

When Co-Rabbis Co-Teach . . . Be Ready for Anything & Everything with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 7:30 PM
Rabbi 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.

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

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.

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 Hasidut 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.

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.

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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
According to Sefer Yetzirah, the Jewish mystical Book of Creation, Kislew 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 be connected. 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 guidance 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 Rabbi Lauren 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, and sacred experience of 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 identities 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: Alessandra. Ziba@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!

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adasisrael.org/jmcw

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December 2018 15
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!

From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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 Hanukkiah 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.

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

- 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.

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

—Pamela Gorin, Assistant Director of Education

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

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 Psukei D’zi’im (Introductory Psalms). Shabbat 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.

Havdalah: Lay-led, participatory service, led by our inspiring Rabbi and Cantor, at 7:15 am. A kaddish follows the service. Havdalah bags will be provided. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havdalah@adasisrael.org.

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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 Alterman or Jeremy Raskin. "Dial-in for Programs & Services: If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-686-8404. 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).
Our image of the child is rich in potential, strong, powerful, competent, and most embody the teaching of Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia philosophy, today.

The 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.

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 that have been defeated 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 Straussberg 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.

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.

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.

Our youngest students. Through a focus on connection, compassion, competency, and middot and mitzvot, the Dubim students soar.

A big thank you 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.”

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The Chronicle

Dec 2018
**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)

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 Holman Elmore, Jody Rahban, and Gaia Frenkel Siege from the National Council for Jewish Women and the JCRC.

2. Author and professor Faye Moskowitz shares her wisdom on memoir writing and Jewish Women and the JCRC.

3. Members of Sisterhood enjoyed the first Tallit 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.

**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 Funger 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 MarlynMCoooper70@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-5pm, 6:00-8:00 pm

1. Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation. 202-364-2888 adasitshop@gmail.com

Note: We will be closed on December 23, 25, and 30.

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**Sisterhood**

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.
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) or Stephen Horblitt (horblitt4126@gmail.com) or contact co-chairs Lauren Queen (laurenqueen526@gmail.com) or Stephen Horblitt (horblitt4126@gmail.com) or Stephen Horblitt (horblitt4126@gmail.com) or Stephen Horblitt (horblitt4126@gmail.com)

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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. Her work is published in many peer-reviewed journals and edited books. 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 MA 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 Gelernt 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 Alterman, Pamela Gairin, 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!
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—which 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, everyone 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.

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 Lifshitz 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 greeting 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, especially 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.

Lattes are a Hanukkah food staple. Are you an appesauce 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 have lost count. LOL. My favorite is a no-frills, traditional one with candles.
Ripple: One Person, One Community At A Time

BY SARA R. VOGLER

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/Tammuz 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, kept kosher, went to Hebrew school, attended 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 the new moon, and I was enraged that in myself.

What’s your spiritual/religious background growing up?

What was your spiritual/religious background growing up?

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?

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?

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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.
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.

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.

A DASTARDLY MURDER IN GLASGOW

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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.
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 incorporates into the talit she made and will wear at her bat mitzvah. Rachel began her Jewish education at Gan Hafeled 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 Steinbdecker, December 1 (TEM)
Matthew, son of Beth and Jeremy Steinbdecker, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. He began his Jewish education at Gan Hafeled and continued it at JPSDC-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 Martz and Rebecca and John Steinbdecker; and his extended family and friends. Matthew enjoys playing many sports, including baseball, spending time with friends, and traveling. At this special time, he thanks lovingly of his late grandfather Mel Martz (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 Hafeled and Janrey 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 astrophysicist. 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.

LIFE CYCLE

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:
Robert Gratz
Florence Herman
Robert Plotzky
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 Tanaha Committee.

Mikvah
Adas Israel Community Mikvah
During this fall’s renovation, all mikvah appointments will take place at Mikvah Chaim at Chove 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 Myaim 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, Shira 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, iron, 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 shirawaskow@gmail.com or naomimailadadasisrael.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!
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:


Adas Fund: In Honor Of: Rabbi Aaron Alexander & Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt by Nancy Sussman.

Rabbi Sarah Krinsky by Karen Epstein.

Adam Kushner & Maria Simon by Amy & Andrew Herman.

Cassell Hanna by Amy & Andrew Herman.

In Memory Of: Barbara, Lee, Anna, Eric, Ruby & Hattie.

In Memory Of: Robert by Mickey, Barbara, Lee, Anna, Eric, Ruby & Hattie.


Cantor Gruntz by Mickey.

In Memory Of: Harvey Taylor by Roz Dugger.


Debra goldberg educational fund: in memory of: Charlotte teicher by Debra Goldberg & Seth warman.

Estelle & Melvin gellman religious school fund: in honor Of: Simon kirschenbaum becoming a bar mitzvah by ada & Terry leach.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund: In Honor Of: David polk's kindness by caring by Beverly Cohen. In gratitude to: David polkony by Joyce & Michael stern. With thanks for: My aliyah with my family by Rita Segerman.


Garden of the Righteous: In memory Of: Flo herman, David cook by judy strach.

Harry & julie levines youth endowment fund: For the speedy recovery Of: Harry levines by ricki gerger.


Debra goldberg educational fund: in memory of: Charlotte teicher by Debra Goldberg & Seth warman.

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