"How do we know whom to honor?"

A couple of years ago, a dear friend told me how excited he’d been to have had an aliya at his synagogue (not ours) recently, in honor of his 75th birthday. The happiness he derived from that aliya was a combination of appreciation for being recognized on an important day, and a deep feeling of gratitude for being cared about by his synagogue.

Naturally, recalling that conversation got me thinking about what we do at Adas Israel. At Shabbat morning services most weeks we honor a new member, and/or someone having a birthday, and/or a couple celebrating an anniversary, and so forth. So how do we know whom to honor?

All new members receive a welcome letter from our rabbis, with a card they can return requesting an aliya. A nice number of our new members let us welcome them to our kehillah in this way. But at the moment, aside from that request card, we rely on our members to tell us about the milestones in their lives. Yeah, we’re currently working on enhancing a system for us to connect with you rather than putting the sole responsibility on you to connect with us for such requests. We know you have a lot on your mind, so how do we do so people in our community feel cared for and respected.

Finding ways our synagogue can have a deeper connection with you, and creating more ways for you to connect with other members, was one of the goals I set with the Rabbis, our staff, and the lay leadership as I began my presidency. I’ve mentioned the work of the Hesed Committee in 11 of my columns, sometimes with just a few words, sometimes in depth, so you can know the ways we’re here for you. I’m heartened by the number of people who are benefiting from this work, and overwhelmingly thankful to all the people who are performing acts of loving kindness.

The best way to let us know about a simcha - or any need you have - is to email Hesed@adasisrael.org. Also use that address if you’d like to help in our Hesed work.

I’m grateful to be your President at such a meaningful time in the history of our congregation.

From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT

My favorite teaching on Pesach is from the mishnah, one you will recognize from its appearance in the Passover Haggadah: “In every generation a person is obligated to see him/herself as if she personally went out from Egypt.” (Mishnah Pesachim 10:5) It is a teaching that reminds us that the seder is not just a ritual that we are performing the first 2 nights of Passover, but we are actually inculcating in ourselves the fear, the pain, the despair of slavery followed by the hope and elation of redemption. The rabbis emphasized the importance of being emotionally connected to this story by turning the obligation from an emotionally distant story told through ritual into a real lived/felt/enacted experience of redemption.

Each year as I prepare for our family seder I think about the issues of the day and how might we bring these stories into the narrative around the table. To bring the emotions of those who are trapped, enslaved, struggling into the emotional life of the seder. This year I won’t have to search for a story.

In early March, I boarded a plane with Rabbi Alexander to McAllen, Texas. After months of watching families separated at the border, we felt it was our moral duty to go to Texas to bear witness to what is happening at the border. We were met in Texas by 7 other Adas members who joined us for this mission. Not only were we seeking to bear witness, we also wanted to find organizations we could partner with to join a humanitarian effort to help families that had been separated as well as families that were seeking to legally enter the United States.

Our first stop was to meet Sister Norma Pimentel who serves as executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (http://www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org) in Brownsville, Texas. A religious sister of the Missionaries of Jesus, she has directed this charitable arm of the Diocese of Brownsville since 2008. She helped organize local response to the 2014 surge of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States, helping to establish the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas. When we walked into the center it felt like an alternate universe. Men, women and children lined the halls of the center waiting. HRC is the place where these families are dropped by ICE after they are released from detention. They have nothing but a bus ticket to their next destination. As we walked through the center with Sister Norma, my mind kept flashing to images of my own people fleeing Nazi occupied Europe seeking refuge. I knew each person carried a story of what she had left behind: parents, siblings, homes, books, worlds -now thousands of miles away.

We then traveled to The Texas Civil Rights Project in Brownsville to meet with a group of lawyers who had been working on family separation cases since the beginning of the Zero Tolerance Policy. As I write this article, family separations continue to occur at the border without a tracking system to reunite parents and children. Over 124 children remain in detention centers all over the United States.

Our final stop was to the Good Neighbor Settlement where groups of volunteers would gather nightly to trek across the Mexican border to feed, clothe and give love to immigrants waiting to claim asylum at the Port of Entry in Brownsville. We were kept up to date on the current situation by the Center for Humanitarian aid who had first opened the Good Neighbor compound in 2010. Women and children are released from detention at the border police are ready to admit a single person, a family of 3, a family of 5 and so on. Many of the families we spoke to were fleeing government inflicted violence in their home countries. Searching for a safe passage to the United States.

As we, the Adas group of 9, said goodbye to the immigrants waiting at the border, giving hugs and prayers for safe passage, we headed for the American border. I felt in my bones the desperation of the migrant- 20 feet from the border of America. For the simple sake of fate. I could cross back in freedom- while my ancestors and the migrants I had just met would be denied safe passage.

This Passover, may we remember our roots, the long history of our people- their fear, despair, weariness and their endless hope for tomorrow. May we feel as if we held a piece of that story inside of us and may we leave our sederim ready to help those who need our voices and our ability to witness so desperately now. Hag Pesach Sameach.

Clergy Corner

RABI LAUREN HOLTZBLATT

April 2019

3
The Second Night Community Seder
with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 @ 7:30 PM

Join us for our annual, festive community Passover seder at Adas Israel with delicious food, thought-provoking discussion, and joyful song. The Passover seder is one of the Jewish peoples’ most treasured traditions. Few rituals have survived so long and remained so true to their original form. Using rich symbolism, role-playing, and all of the senses, the seder has warmly transmitted the values of human dignity, liberty, and the search for higher meaning to every society it has reached.

To this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover seder, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this beautiful and meaningful tradition with you and your family this year at Adas.

The haggadah teaches that every generation has the responsibility to re-learn and re-apply the lessons of subjugation and freedom. Stories from the life of Moses offer valuable lessons for understanding racial privilege and becoming an ally against injustice. A workshop by Jordan S. Potash, a licensed art therapist, titled “Lessons from Moses on Privilege: A Haggadah Supplement,” includes both learning and training on how to facilitate similar discussions at the Pesach seder. Sponsored by the Adas Israel Racial Justice Working Group, the workshop takes place Tuesday, April 2, 7:00–9:00 pm in Wasserman Hall.

Please register online at adasisrael.org/Passover.

Lessons from Moses on Privilege
A Haggadah Supplement

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 @ 7:30 PM

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Please register online at adasisrael.org/Passover.
Passover Guide

2019/5779

Passover is celebrated this year from Friday evening, April 19, through Saturday, April 27. The sedarim are held on Friday and Saturday nights, April 19 and 20. All cleaning and preparations to make the house pesachik (kosher for Passover) must be completed by 10:00 am on Friday, April 19. If you have any questions, please consult with the rabbis.

The rule against hametz on Pesach applies not only to eating but to enjoyment (hannaah) and also involves removing all of the hametz from one’s home. No hametz is even allowed to be in a Jew’s possession during Passover. To facilitate this cleaning, certain rituals are part of Passover preparations (the text for the ceremonies can be found in most haggadot).

Bedikat hametz—searching for crumbs of hametz bitul hametz—a formula for renouncing hametz inadvertently missed be’ur hametz—burning hametz mehirit hametz—the sale of hametz

Mehirat Hametz

We are not always able to destroy or remove all of our hametz, because doing so could be economically disastrous. So the rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale is made of all the hametz to a non-Jew in the community, who then sells it back to us after Pesach. The hametz is then no longer “in our possession.”

Biur Hametz

This day should be treated as an ordinary Erev Pesach with regard to biur hametz (removal of hametz). Burning of the hametz should be completed by about 10:00 am. The stove should be kept on for Pesach. All cooking should be done in Pesach pots using only Pesach utensils. Food required for the first seder should be cooked at this time. Burn your chametz at Adas Israel on Friday, March 30, at 9:00 am in the parking lot.

First Seder, Friday Night, April 19

Tradition encourages that the seder not begin until after sunset.

Candlelighting Times:

- Friday, March 30: Light candles at 7:11 pm.
- Saturday, March 31: Light candles at 7:12 pm.
- Thursday, April 4: Light candles at 7:17 pm.
- Friday, April 5: Light candles at 7:18 pm.

Memorial Candle: It is customary to light a memorial candle for departed members of the family before lighting the holy day candles.

The blessings recited are:

Devar Hashem:

Please sell our hametz so that we have fulfilled our obligation of religious ownership and accept this contribution so that others are assured of a seder.

Name:

Home Address:

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b’mitzvot

v’tzeveanu v’hleekei nor shel Shabbat v’hleei Yom Tov. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to light the Shabbat and Festival candles.

And on the first night only:

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu, v’kiemanu, v’hheege anu li’azman hazeh.

Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

The Sale of Hametz

During Passover, it is technically forbidden to have any hametz in our possession. Because we cannot finish it all, and it is improper to destroy usable food, the rabbis provided for a symbolic sale of all the hametz to a non-Jew who then “sells” it back to us after Pesach. The hametz is then no longer “in our possession.”

This includes food, dishes, and utensils, which are locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

Funds collected through donations and through the “sale” of hametz are used for charitable purposes and to help provide Passover food for those who otherwise might have none. This legal procedure technically transfers ownership of hametz that remains in our pantry during the festival. Technical ownership reverts to us when the festival is over.

Please use this form and send it to Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith (Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org) by Tuesday, April 16.

Please sell our hametz:

Dear Hazzan Goldsmith:

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The Building Blocks

A Summary & User-Guide for Adas Israel’s Budget & Finances

For transparency, knowledge, and collaboration

What is this?
Adas Israel is a vibrant collection of humans—seeking meaning, community, and connection, together. We care for the sick and the bereaved, we celebrate with the joyful, and we bear witness to each other’s journeys. Being of service in this way for our many thousands of people of course takes time, focus, energy, commitment . . . and yes, money. The following summary is designed to help you better understand and appreciate (even love?) the multifaceted, and truly sacred, financial anatomy of our incredible community. This is our story, in numbers. It is our sincerest hope that the financial picture we provide will serve as a usable and transparent resource for our many community members.

Why now?
Beginning in February each year, the Budget Finance Committee, Board of Directors, Clergy, and Senior Staff begin the hard, diligent, and devoted work of preparing a Draft Operating Budget for the coming synagogue fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The draft goes through months and months of preparation and refinement, and is ultimately proposed to the Congregation by our Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting each year in June. That meeting will be here before you know it. We hope this information will help prepare and empower our membership to collaborate and to make informed decisions at the annual finance discussions.

There is no “profit margin” at Adas.
A large and transparent financial cabinet carefully assesses Congregational obligations and priorities each year, and forecasts the necessary revenue required to sustain them. We do not budget for profits, or greedy or wasteful spending and collecting. With our building, size, and history, it’s easy to assume (incorrectly) that “money grows on trees.” It is simply not true. We are a nonprofit like any other. In fact, as has always been the case, we barely break even each year in covering our yearly expenses. We choose to be of service in maximum service and impact, and put the mission first. Our budget exists to serve humans, not the other way around. We are very blessed to have many generous members, and to be the beneficiaries of a small number of founders and supporters who paved the way for all of us. But there is much work to be done each year to meet so many needs, while ensuring finances never be a barrier to full participation at Adas.

Who makes these decisions?
YOU. Financial matters are never determined by any one person alone. They are Congregational decisions, with oversight from a variety of stakeholders, including our Board of Directors, Budget & Finance Committee, Clergy, Executive Director, accounting staff, external auditing firm, and more. There is a robust and dedicated financial cabinet and process at Adas, and decisions are made with one key question in mind: is this what’s best for the humans at Adas, and the overall long-term financial health of the congregation?

Are finances a barrier at Adas?
No. To help us fulfill our mission, serve our members, educate our children, and involve ourselves in the broader community, we appreciate and rely upon the financial commitment of our members. And, needless to say, we cannot operate our schools without key income lines such as tuition and fees. However, we are 100% committed to personal financial hardship never being a barrier to synagogue membership. We want you more than we need it.

A Note About Security
As we’ve shared before, security is a top priority for us at Adas Israel. Needless to say, the tragic events at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh only reinforced our inclination to continuously seek outside expert support when it comes to all security matters—and to take their advice seriously. Within a few hours of the events in Pittsburgh, per the advice of experts from Homeland Security and MPD, a significantly enhanced security infrastructure was put in place at Adas Israel. This includes the presence of magnetometers and additional security personnel, as well as other measures. With this enhancement, we saw a substantial, and unplanned, six-figure increase in our security expenses. Through the generosity of a handful of Adas members, and through this year’s impressively efficient and productive operating budget, we can comfortably project a balanced budget this fiscal year, even in the face of these increased expenses. However, that will clearly not be sufficient or sustainable for years going forward. We are committed to these new security features remaining in place until our advisors recommend differently. So, the Budget & Finance Committee and Board of Directors will continue to review effective, responsible, and sustainable ways of incorporating these new expenses into our ongoing operating budgets.

We are growing!
At odds with all national trends, the Congregation has grown by significant amounts over the last several years. With a low of 1,300 households six years ago, the Congregation is approaching 1,700 households today (net growth of nearly 400)! School enrollment has experienced similar growth. While this is beyond wonderful news (the very best in fact), and a meaningful endorsement of the direction and impact of our community these past several years, this does not mean “profit.” The net margin between revenue and expenses is still close to 0%. It costs real money to serve people, so all additional expenses are directly related to the additional revenue. Budget-wise, it’s just a bigger pie all around, not a more “profitable” one.

The Three Fundamentals of Adas Israel’s Finances

1. The Annual Operating Budget
   Revenue, of $85.5 million*

2. The Congregation’s Endowment
   Long-term gifts for our future, and for right now!

3. The Synagogue Reserves
   Ensuring the Congregation has what it needs to deal with whatever inevitably comes.

The Adas Budget & Finances: Who makes these decisions? Why now? There is no “profit margin” at Adas. Who makes these decisions? Why now? There is no “profit margin” at Adas.

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2. The Congregation’s Endowment

The Endowment is a collection of literally hundreds of different principal contributions from Adas Israel families and foundations over the years; all invested prudently according to the Congregation’s Board-approved Investment Policy Statement. Gifts are not spent, but rather, retained in perpetuity, and interest earned goes to support the synagogue budget and other key projects in meaningful ways. This is a beautiful mechanism of giving. The Congregation has grown increasingly dependent on yearly Endowment earnings as a critical revenue source for balancing our large operating budget (currently drawing roughly 5% of the Endowment market value, and supporting about 12% of the annual operating budget revenue).

Current value of the Endowment: $19 Million
(This may seem like a lot, but consider this: we rely on the annual 5% draw from that amount each year to pay our bills, serve our members, and educate our students. And it has to last forever.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Endowment Market Value</th>
<th>Annual Spend from Endowment</th>
<th>How we calculate the annual endowment draw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$30,000,000</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
<td>$6,000,000 (5% of the Total Budget Size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000 (5% of the Total Budget Size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$610,000</td>
<td>$610,000 (5% of the Total Budget Size)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The Critical (but modest) Synagogue Reserves

The Synagogue Reserves are currently reflected through two separate accounts: The Net Operating Reserve and The Building/Capital Fund. These two, relatively small funds, are designed to assist the Congregation with critical needs that often lie outside the capacity of a yearly operating budget, but are no less important in serving our community. Our external audit team has worked with our financial cabinet to recommend the structure, size, and goal of these funds. It may seem like some kind of a “Savings Account,” but they are both actively used each year to deal with the things you’d notice if we didn’t (i.e., moldy carpets, leaky roofs, broken equipment, flooding basements, unavoidable operating deficits, or other emergencies). The primary mechanism for funding The Building/Capital Fund is the 7-year ‘Building Fund Contribution’ assessed to members each year, which you see on your account statement (No, that is not some greedy tax. As you can see, it is critical to maintaining your building.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Net Operating Reserve</th>
<th>The Building/Capital Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Balance: $620,000</td>
<td>Current Balance: $650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal for this account: $850,000*</td>
<td>Goal for this account: $2,000,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Heresy? best practice is to maintain 10% of Operating Budget in reserve fund, in the event of deficit years.


Our Board of Directors and Finance Committees are committed to a regular, transparent communication, so we can all maintain a healthy dialogue regarding our financial picture and future. Our Number 1 goal is to enable all the good and wonderful work of the Congregation to continue, and for you to be served in the way you deserve. Feel free to reach out to finance@adasIsrael.org to speak with any of us, to join one of these wonderful committees, or to offer your suggestions or insights for our future. This is up to all of us, and we can do this. Yasher koach for learning with us. And thank you for being a member of our remarkable community.
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 202-362-4433.

The Chronicle

ONGOING LEARNING

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 @ 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.

POST-KIDDUSH HALAKHAH CLASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 @ 7:30 PM
Join us as Rabbi Alexander teaches this month’s text-based class, after kiddush, using halakha (Jewish law and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic.

THE TEXT WITH RABBI ELIANNA YOLKUT

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 @ 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.

SYNTHESIS & APPLICATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 30 @ 7:30 PM
This new addition to our MakomDC lineup will offer participants a space to revisit some of the month’s core texts and teachings, ask questions, debate ideas, and gain further familiarity with the month’s messages.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 @ 7:30 PM
Join us as our April scholar, Rabbi Dr. David Hoffman, teaches in correlation with the MakomDC theme of The Heart of “Home”: Judaism’s Multi-Textured, Spiritual, Architectural Guide to Sacred Space. Dr. David Hoffman is Vice Chancellor and Chief Advancement Officer at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is an assistant professor in the fields of Talmudic studies and Jewish law. To learn more visit adasisrael.org/makomdc. Register for lectures or classes online or by calling 202-362-4433.

MAKOMDC APRIL LEARNING

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 @ 1:00 PM
Join us as Rabbi Alexander teaches this month’s text-based class, after kiddush, using halakha (Jewish life and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 16 @ 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.

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This new addition to our MakomDC lineup will offer participants a space to revisit some of the month’s core texts and teachings, ask questions, debate ideas, and gain further familiarity with the month’s messages.

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

LAST CLASS DATE — TUESDAY, 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.

April 6: Rabbi Sarah Krinsky
April 13: Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
April 20 & 27: No Boker Or due to Pesach

Friday Parsha Study

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.

*This event will be livestreamed at adasisrael.org/adaslive.
Mazal Tov & Thank You to Carol Ansell

BELOVED ADAS ISRAEL RECEIPTIONIST AND FRONT DESK AMBASSADOR FOR 25 YEARS!

With many bittersweet emotions, we write to celebrate and honor our beloved friend, Carol Ansell, who has served our congregation for 25 incredible years. Now, after many seasons of dedicated, loving and spirited service, Carol has decided it is time to retire, and will begin her next chapter at the end of May of this year.

Many in our community have aptly described Carol as the “voice of Adas,” and have found extraordinary comfort and nourishment picking up the phone, or swinging by the front desk, to hear her voice and be in her presence. She has been a kind, ambassadorial, compassionate and spirited member of our team, and we are so proud and grateful to her.

Carol will not be a stranger at Adas. She will remain active in our Sisterhood, and plans to volunteer in our gift shop and with various copyediting duties around the congregation (which she does so well!).

We plan to celebrate Carol on Friday, May 10, her official 25th anniversary of work here at Adas. A fitting way to honor and help celebrate this well-deserved transition.

We look forward to ceasing her voice and being in her presence. She has been a nourishment picking up the phone, or swinging by the front desk, to hear her voice and be in her presence. She has been a kind, ambassadorial, compassionate and spirited member of our team, and we are so proud and grateful to her.

On Tuesday, April 16, please join us for a panel discussion examining the growing generational divide on Israel featuring influential voices who will be shaping this discussion for years to come. This event, co-sponsored by Adas Israel, Israel Policy Forum and ADL, in partnership with the JCCRC of Greater Washington, is designed to change that reality by bringing together prominent voices from along the political, denominational and generational spectrums. Whether you’re a Democrat frustrated with Republican policies or a Republican convinced the Democrats don’t support Israel, an Orthodox Jew committed to settlements or a secular Jew who abhors them, a parent who can’t mention Israel to your children or a younger person convinced your parents don’t have a clue – or someone who defies these stereotypes – please cross the divide with us.

Learn more at adasisrael.org/israel.

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Amir Tibon (moderator)
Amir Tibon is an award-winning Israeli journalist who is currently the Washington, DC, correspondent for Haaretz newspaper. He covers the U.S.-Israel relationship, the Middle East peace process, and the American Jewish community. His reporting on Israel and the Middle East has appeared in The Atlantic, Foreign Affairs, POLITICO Magazine, The New Yorker, Tablet Magazine, and other leading U.S. publications. His first book, a biography of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, was published in 2017. Tibon served for three years in the IDF Intelligence Corps as an Arabic language specialist.

Yair Rosenberg
Yair Rosenberg is a senior writer at Tablet Magazine, where he covers the intersection of politics, culture, and religion. His work has also appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, and The Guardian, and his writings have received awards from the Religion Newswriters Association and the Harvard Center for Jewish Studies. Rosenberg has covered everything from misrepresentations of Orthodox Jews in the media, to Muslims and Jews in comic books, to political anti-Mormonism, and, in his spare time, he creates bots that troll anti-Semites on Twitter.

Daniella Greenbaum Davis
Writer Daniella Greenbaum Davis focuses on free speech, the culture wars, and America’s role on the international stage. A weekly columnist for the Spectator, David has written for the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the New York Post, Commentary Magazine, the Bulwark, and countless others. She was formerly a political columnist at Business insider, assistant editor at Commentary Magazine, and a Bartley Pool at the Wall Street Journal. She graduated from Barnard College and Columbia University with a degree in English literature.

Rabbi Jili Jacobs
Rabbi Jili Jacobs is executive director of T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, which mobilizes a network of 2,000 rabbis and cantors and their communities to bring a rabbinic moral voice to human rights in North America, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories. She is the author of Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community and There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition, both published by Jewish Lights. Rabbi Jacobs has been named three times to the Forward’s list of 50 influential American Jews, to Newsweek’s list of the 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America, and to the Jerusalem Post’s 2013 list of “Women to Watch.” She holds rabbinic ordination and an MA in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she was a Wexner Fellow; an MS in urban affairs from Hunter College; and a BA from Columbia University. She is also a graduate of the Mandell Institute Jerusalem Fellows Program.

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UPTO COMING EVENT:
THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE:
EXAMINING THE FUTURE OF US-ISRAEL, ISRAEL-DIASPORA RELATIONS
TUESDAY, APRIL 16 @ 7:00 PM, ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION
PRESENTED BY ISRAEL POLICY FORUM
Register online at adasisrael.org/israel.

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Learn more at adasisrael.org/israel.
MUSICAL MOMENTS

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

DC Klezmer Workshop
Sunday April 14 @ 2:00 pm

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

Then you will want to join us for the DC Klezmer Workshop at Adas Israel. We will meet Sunday, April 14, 2:00–4:00 pm, for a musicians workshop and dancing. The workshop is open to all levels of musicians, whether you read music or not.

The workshop is free, but we suggest a $10 donation to support future workshop events. RSVP at adasisrael.org/form/klezmer-donation-form.

Kol HaOlam Thank You!

We want to thank all of our amazing Adas community members who opened their homes to our Kol HaOlam participants. Thirty-one households hosted 86 students and one judge! We also bestow a huge yasher koach on Maya Bernstein for coordinating (and juggling) all of the hospitality!


adasisrael.org/musicalmoments
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pages 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 Psak HaDin (introductions, Psalms, Shacharit, and Musaf), a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a dvar Torah. For more information, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

Havurah Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A kiddush follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

APRIL 2019

ADAR II-NISAN 5779

Sunday
1 24 Adar II
2 25 Adar II
3 26 Adar II
4 27 Adar II

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Monday
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Thursday
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Friday
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Saturday
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PARSHAT TAZRIA/SHABBAT HACHODESH/ROSH CHODESH
9:00 am Ski Or Torah Teddy Shabbat Morning Musical Service Bar Mizvah: Holiday Store w/ Rabbi Selman
9:00 am Ski Or Torah Teddy Shabbat Morning Musical Service Bar Mizvah: Holiday Store w/ Rabbi Selman
11:00 am Nitsav
11:00 am Nitsav
11:00 am Nitsav
11:00 am Nitsav

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PARSHAT METZORAH/SHABBAT HAGADOL
9:00 am Ski Or Torah Passover Family Service w/ Rabbi Heschel & Alexander & Sinai Traditional Lay-Lead Shabbat Service
11:00 am Nitsav
11:00 am Nitsav
11:00 am Nitsav
11:00 am Nitsav

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Pesach Day 2
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31 29 Nisan

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Pesach Day 7
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28 27 Adar II
29 27 Adar II

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Pesach Day 8
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30 27 Adar II
31 27 Adar II
1 29 Nisan

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PLANNED EVENTS:

Bar Mitzvah: Devin Cohen
8:42 pm Havdalah
12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush
8:30 am Boker Ohr Torah Study
9:05 am Boker Ohr Torah Study
9:42 pm Havdalah
10:30 am Parsha with Hassidut
11:00 am Parsha with Hassidut

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Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menahem Peters. Nitsav, for students in grades K-5, is led by Sarah Attermann and Jeremy Raskin.

“Dia-in’ for Programs & Services: If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-886-8454.

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, please contact the Director of Library Services, Robin Jacobson (library@adasisrael.org).
Passover is the Festival of Freedom where we are commanded to taste the Bread of Affliction. Each year, as we recite the maggid, the story of our liberation, we are asked to experience this retelling as if we ourselves were released from oppression in Mitzrayim. This Hebrew word for Egypt, means narrow straits—a place of constriction. Passover challenges us to ask how we live in narrowness and how our own mitzrayim can keep us captive. In her talk, “In and Out of Egypt,” the celebrated meditation teacher Sylvia Boorstein says her “mind gets stuck in narrow places all the time.” And while our Passover story recounts just one humbled Exodus from Egypt, she goes “out from Egypt about ten times a day,” when constrained by her own thoughts. She wonders whether the journey to the holy land takes 40 years because the mind so often returns to those narrow places. We welcome you to join JMCW in prayer, song, meditation, and movement as we expand our narrowness and reach toward liberation.

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.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah The beautiful, recently renovated and accessible mikvah is open! We welcome you to plan your own time for a mindful immersion. E-mail mikvah@adasisrael.org or call Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 to schedule appointments.

JMCW RECOMMENDS . . .

Seder Talk: The Conversational Haggada by Dr. Erica Brown

This book has two parts. Opening left to right, you will find a beautiful commentary on the text of the Haggada. And, opening right to left, further expands the meaning of Passover with eight short essays, one for each night of the holiday. Dr. Brown includes art, poetry, stories, old rabbinic texts, and contemporary wisdom to fully engage the reader and participants in a mindful and intentional conversation on the multiple layers of Passover. Seder Talk is available in the Adas library, as are many other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

For registrations, updates, and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page, adasisrael.org/jmcw, or the JMCW Facebook Group. Please direct any questions to: alesandra.zsiba@adasisrael.org.
AMBASSADORS FOR INCLUSION

From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON

This spring I feel as though I have had a notable number of conversations with people who are preparing for their first seder after losing a loved one. While many of them have centered around the question, "How could it possibly be as good as it was when they were here?" (especially when the person was the seder leader), many more of them have been about how we can remember our loved ones and celebrate their legacy within the context of the seder. For some this might be a change to the physical setup or menu—for example, an extra place setting or chair or a favorite dish. For some it might be playing with ritual elements—a special cup in addition to that of Elijah and Miriam, or a 'seder plate' in memory of the person where each guest or family member contributes something to remember them by (not necessarily food-related). For others it might be adding extra readings that honor the person’s passions in the world, or posings questions and answers that the person might have shared. And for some it might feel important not to actually change anything, but to keep things as familiar as possible.

No matter the approach, as with most things, the thoughtful conversation leading up to seder is often the most important part. How do we acknowledge our loss both individually and collectively, and put plans into place to help acknowledge and hold our grief but also leave room for spontaneous and unexpected reactions and emotions? During a holiday so tied to our communal narrative, it is also a time to hold dear individual stories, memories, and traditions. May this year’s seders be vehicles for us all to celebrate with our loved ones and remember them as we journey out from our narrow places. Chag Sameach.

AMBASSADORS FOR INCLUSION

In late fall, the Religious School applied for and received a grant called Ambassadors for Inclusion, funded by the Federation of Greater Washington. The Ambassadors for Inclusion (AFI) program educates children about specific disabilities. In March, our fifth graders participated in a program about autism, with material from Understanding Our Differences. The program consisted of several pieces: discussion, video clips, some hands-on activities, and a guest speaker. Our guest speaker was Nathan Weissler, a college student living in the greater Washington community. Here is an excerpt of his remarks to our students:

My name is Nathan Weissler. I am on the autism spectrum. Although that was the case from when I was born, my family only learned that when I was four. Throughout the years, I have spent a lot of time thinking about what it means to be inclusive. In my opinion, an important standard for where a community is inclusive is whether people will do their best to help you find opportunities to use your talents and will support you when things are going well and when they are not going well. Some of the most important things that I want people here today to remember about my challenges are that everyone has different strengths and different challenges. That is the case regardless of whether or not one has special needs. No one person is meant to be strong in everything and no one person is meant to struggle in everything.

—Pamela Gorin, Assistant Director of Education

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

YOUTH @ AI

Our Ma’alot (high school) program gives students sophisticated and dynamic opportunities to understand the modern Jewish world around them as well as the traditions and history of the past. This semester, our students have participated in a variety of electives, ranging from exploring Jewish literature, interpretations of Torah, and how G-d can be portrayed in movies. One elective the students have had the opportunity to take involves looking at the holidays of Passover and Shavuot, matching the rhythm of the year. In an attempt to clarify some of the questions surrounding why we observe Passover as we do, particularly with regard to the seder, the class has examined the parts of the seder and thoughts associated with it. It is our hope that the students will approach their own family Passover with insights, stories, pieces of art, and questions that allow them to participate in the family seder in a way they may not have before.

After Passover, the students will devote their time to learning about counting the omer, Shavuot, and why we still observe harvest-oriented holidays when we are no longer an agrarian-centric ethnoreligious group. Beyond the electives, we also incorporate teaching that follows the natural rhythm of the Jewish calendar as well as being attentive to events that arise. This semester, our Ma’alot students have the opportunity to delve deeply into Israeli elections to parallel processes ongoing in Israel: looking at the complex and changing issues involved in Israeli elections and holding mock elections.

—Sarah Attermann, Youth and Family Educator

GAN HAYELED

When exploring Jewish holidays with young children, the Gan emphasizes values and authentic experiences. We believe that children learn best when curricula contextual and meaningful from both developmental and experiential perspectives. Thus, with each Jewish holiday, Gan teachers are encouraged to pick a value or middah, as well as a hands-on exploration that illustrates aspects of the holiday being explored.

With the upcoming holiday of Pesach, the Gan identifies values that are illuminated by the Pesach story. One value is bravery or onetz—that of Moshe who continually returned to Pharaoh asking for the Jewish people to be let go, even when turned away, time and time again. To young children, bravery comes in many forms—speaking up for a friend on the playground when they are being treated unkindly by another friend, or offering an answer or idea during a group discussion.

Miriam, the sister of Moshe, was a strong, fearless woman, bringing constant positivity or mishuhnah to the Jewish people. Miriam used song to lift people’s spirits and focused on gratitude to G-d, even when times were tough. For young children, positivity is contagious; if one child laughs, the rest are bound to have a case of the giggles. Additionally, the positive power of music can change the energy of any classroom and brings joy to all those around.

We have also found here in the Gan, regardless of the age of a child, matzah is delicious and contextual. Children can connect with the idea that food takes time to cook, and when there is not enough time to cook the food, it will not be what they expected. Thus, making matzah, especially with children who are accustomed to making challah, or creating a beautiful matzah cover that will be used at home with their family during seder, is meaningful.

The Gan wishes everyone a Chag Pesach Sameach. We hope everyone in our community is able to find connection and meaning to the powerful and beautiful middot of Pesach, as the Gan children do each year.

—Darci Lewis, Assistant Director & Curriculum Specialist, Gan HafTed

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 21—Sunday, April 28
Spring Break
Tuesday, April 30
Religious School resumes

The Chronicle April 2019 23
You joined Adas in 2017 and quickly became very involved. Before we dive into your Adas world, how long have you lived in DC, what brought you here, and what keeps you here?

I grew up in the Maryland suburbs, and as an adult I have lived in a few different areas of Maryland that weren’t too far from DC, so I have always been in the area. But I have only lived in DC proper for about seven years. I decided to move into the city to be closer to friends and social activities, and I am so glad I did! I love my neighborhood. It’s very walkable, and even though it’s in the city, there is still a fair amount of green space. In the fall, when the leaves are changing, the trees look beautiful on some of the wider, tree-lined streets. I feel like with where I live now, I get a touch of the suburbs with the convenience of being in the city, which is a perfect balance for what I was looking for; I think that’s what keeps me here. Plus, bonus, it’s close to Adas!

You were taking Modern Hebrew classes at the JCC. What are some of your favorite Hebrew words or phrases? Do you have any tips or tricks for those who might be interested in sharpening their Hebrew skills?

Yes, I am taking Modern Hebrew. It’s challenging, but fun (no grades!). So far, one of my favorite words is actually not a Hebrew word, it’s sababa, which means cool; it’s actually an Arabic word. It’s just fun to say. Our Hebrew teacher told us that while it’s technically Israeli slang, it’s commonly used in Israel. I also like to say anakhnu, which means we, it’s actually an easy Hebrew word to remember, because it’s the same for males and females. Tips or tricks? Practice, practice, practice! And if you take a class, do your homework; it helps to practice listening, reading, and writing, and our homework covers all of these skills. Admittedly, I do not practice enough and I’m not consistent with the homework, but I’m enjoying it, so I will keep it at it for now, and please do share some really good news with me or an interesting piece of information; it will give me an opportunity to say sababa!

You are the co-chair of our Racial Justice Working Group and a couple of months ago helped plan and organize our MLK Community Shabbat weekend. Can you tell us a bit more about this working group; what are your goals, what types of advocacy work do you do, are there any ongoing projects our members can participate in, how else can they get involved?

I co-chair the Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) along with Stephen Horblitt and Susan Bayles, who are great to work with. As with all of our events, the MLK weekend events were planned with the guidance of our clergy. Our broader social action teams and synagogue staff were also a tremendous help. We were trying something new at the Shabbat dinner with table discussions of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s ideas, paired with Jewish texts. We wanted to challenge ourselves to think about how we could put Dr. King’s messages into action today as Jews. It was quite the undertaking, but enjoyable and meaningful for everyone, and the feedback so far has been positive! In addition to the text study during Shabbat dinner, our guest speaker on Saturday gave a wonderful sermon on the challenge of moving beyond diversity recognition to engagement, inclusion and pluralism, and then led a workshop that afternoon focused on creating inclusive Jewish communities.

Adas is a great community and is very welcoming, but as with any community, there are always some exciting events and resources available. singles can meet singles, couples can meet couples, newcomers can connect with other newcomers. You can learn more online: adasiswa.org/YP

Brunch & Learn Highlights

Young Professionals schmooze, nosh, and delve into text study at a brunch and learn with Rabbi Alexander.
Sisterhood member and avid traveler Barbara Friedell will take us on a journey as she shares stories and images from a place few Americans have gone—her two-week adventure in the Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea. Barbara has an MA in Asian Art History from the School of Oriental and African Studies at The University of London. Register online at adasisrael.org/sisterhood.
An Adas initiative to support women refugees in Amman, Jordan, Hope Workshop provides access to potable water to the entire town, and has emergency funds set aside. This sustainable, small-scale, international coffee company model shifts the profits from large, international companies to the members of the Salvador cooperative.

Cafe Justo’s mission is to deliver the highest-quality, organic, environmentally conscious, fresh roasted coffee to its customers at a price that is fair and just. Adas Israel is proud to support the collective, and to offer its delicious coffee to our community. Please see justcoffee.org, or reach out to Brad Brooks-Rubin (SAC chair) at barubin10@hotmail.com, for more information.

Hope Workshop
An Adas initiative to support women refugees in Amman, Jordan
This March and April, Adas is selling embroidered linens handmade by Syrian and Iraqi refugees at the Hope Workshop in Amman, Jordan. Ninety percent of all sales go directly to the women producers, while the rest funds supplies needed to run the workshop. The embroidered linens feature Jordanian wildflowers, Middle Eastern fruits, and traditional motifs. Prices range from $12 to $75. Please come by for a beautifully handcrafted challah cover, table runner, or napkin set, for your own sedar table or for a gift.

Hope Workshop is a craft collective that provides refugee women the space to collaborate, create, and socialize, while earning additional income for their households. It is run by Collateral Repair Project (CRP), a grassroots refugee aid organization located in East Amman, a neighborhood that is home to a growing number of urban refugees from Syria and Iraq. Most of the women are displaced and have been forced to find new paths to provide for their families and build social connections.

ANNE FRANK HOUSE

Anne Frank House and its residents wish the entire Adas Israel community a Chag Pesach Sameach.

As we celebrate this special season, Anne Frank House—its residents, board members, and other friends—recognize that we have much to be grateful for, particularly for the continuing support and generosity of Adas Israel congregants. We also appreciate the clergy and staff of Adas Israel for their continuing special support to Anne Frank House as well as the Religious School community for making our mini-walks such great successes year after year.


Anne Frank House welcomes new Adas Israel contributors in our efforts to support our current residents and to respond to the many requests we receive from area agencies to take in new residents. Thank you for helping us to continue to be an important resource in combating homelessness in the Washington, DC, community.

To make a contribution to Anne Frank House, please send your check to Anne Frank House, Inc., PO Box 73275, Washington, DC 20056–3275. For online contributions, please visit our website, theannefrankhouse.org. Thank you!

HESED ACTS OF LOVING KINDNESS

Hesed Feature of the Month: Hesed’s New Baby Meal Train

Anne Frank House

Providing Hesed meals to families with new babies is just one of the many ways Hesed does acts of loving kindness in our congregation. Knowing that we are helping families at a vulnerable and possibly stressful time in their lives fills the hearts of those doing acts of loving kindness with true joy. One of our busiest cooks is Rabbi Jan Kaufman, who has moved back to DC after retiring from her work at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. She knows many families from Adas’s Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, Havurah Service, and daily minyan. And she loves to cook. (See below for more on our Top Chef! Rabbi Jan Kaufman.) She can be counted on to provide a meal to virtually every Baby Meal Train family. She keeps some meals in her freezer and adds fresh salads etc. Want to do the same?

Although we have some frequent Baby Meal Train providers, we always need additional volunteers to cook a meal or be willing to deliver to families that live further from Adas (Brookland, Capitol Hill, or Virginia). If you don’t want to cook, you can also order a meal from the family’s favorite neighborhood restaurant. Just click the link on the birth announcement.

If you want to help or have any questions, please contact Mary Hammer, Hesed New Baby Meal Team Leader, 301-279-2549 or maryhammer@aol.com.

TOP CHEF: Rabbi Jan Kaufman

Rabbi Jan Kaufman has reached the Hesed Committee’s Top Chef status! She has cooked an amazing number of delicious Hesed meals for families with new babies and congregants who are ill. We wanted to know how Jan got to be such a terrific cook; here’s her story. Next time you see Jan, please give her a big thank you for spreading the love of Hesed through delicious home-cooked meals.

From Jae: My grandmother was my role model for cooking. Before I started school, and in the summers, I would spend Friday with my grandmother as she got ready for Shabbat. At 8:00 am, Mr. Yankelove, the butcher, would deliver meat...
My Grandma died when I was in fourth grade. My Grandpa remarried and I was not happy. I was worried I would have to give up the key to his house, but he told me I could come over whenever I wanted. I used to bring my friends over when I was a teenager, and Bubby Alice (his new wife to whom he was married for 30 years before he died) always had cookies. I ate a lot before I was even 5. She was a wonderful cook and an excellent baker. She would make the same cake every Friday night, a yellow cake with chocolate icing, and when no one would let me have a second piece, my Grandpa would pull the cake toward him, cut a piece, and put it on his plate and feed it to me.

When I graduated college and went to New York, I had two history classes on Friday morning that required a lot of reading. When I finished my homework, I would reward myself on Thursday nights by making Shabbat dinner and inviting lots of guests, and that’s when I started experimenting. For example, when making frosting for a cake that was parve, I started to use various liqueurs instead of milk. I took recipes and farcrystalled them, as we say in Yiddish. I find cooking to be great therapy.

I take such pleasure in making meals for the Hesed Committee. I mostly cook meals for families with new babies. I try and make the meals as elegant as possible. The meal train website tells us to include condiments like salad dressing and not to forget beverages, so I always do a homemade herb dressing and I include two bottles of seltzer with the meals. I’ve been very gratified by the feedback I’ve received from the families. Since I don’t like to drive, I’ve enlisted my fellow morning minyanaires, including Manny Schiffres, Norman Shore, and James Sullivan, to deliver the meals. I’m amazed at where our members now live. When I left DC in 1992 for New York City, it was rare for Adas members to live in Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, or Chinatown, but now the meals go all over the city. Since I’m retired I have time to make the meals.

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.

Adas Office Closings

Erev Passover
First Seder
Friday, April 19
Schools/Offices Close at NOON
Passover Days 1 & 2
Saturday & Sunday, April 20 & 21
Schools/Offices Closed
Passover Eve Yom Tov
Thursday, April 25
Schools/Offices Close at 3:30 pm
Passover Days 7 & 8
Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27
Schools/Offices Closed

Noah Pan Stier, April 6
Noah Pan Stier, son of Florence Pan and Max Stier, is a seventh grader at the Washington International School. He started his Jewish education as a Puppy in the Gan and has been attending the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten. For his mitzvah project, Noah is helping a homeless music student get through college. He shares this simcha with his parents, his brother Zachary, and the rest of his extended family.

Sydney Lowit, April 13
Sydney Anna Lowit, daughter of Jodi and Philip Lowit, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She began her Jewish education at Gan Halalel, and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Sydney celebrates her bat mitzvah with her younger sisters, Sasha and Ruby; her grandparents, Rose Blecker and Denise and Fred Lowit; and other family and friends. She also remembers her grandfather, Sidney Blecker (2’1), for whom she was named. For her mitzvah project, Sydney is working on ways to educate her generation about the Holocaust.

Ezra Solomon Sokol, April 8
Ezra Solomon Sokol, son of Rachel & Jaas Sokol, born February 8
Collin Jack Feller, son of Jennifer Miller & Jason Feller, born February 8
Julia Gabrielle Kossak, daughter of Jonathan & Amy Kossak, born February 18
Ezra Max Berger, son of Rebecca & Alex Berger, born February 22

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IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue member: Karen Marks

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Richard T. Gershbock, father of Aaron & Jacob Gershbock
Marlene Hyman, mother of Lori Ranes
Tamar Kleinfield Selden, mother of David Selden

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING

Joy Brophy & Rachel Fauber, officiated by Rabbi Alexander, were married February 17.

LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION

When Death Occurs

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B’NAI MITZVAH

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**Books & More**

**Memoirs That Tackle Big Life Questions**

**BY ROBIN JACOBSON**  
**LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR**

The Passover Seder is a night of questions—questions about the stories we inherit, the nature of Jewish identity, and what we owe to strangers who are oppressed or suffering. To stretch your mental muscles on these questions in advance of Passover, take a look at two compelling new memoirs: *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* by Dani Shapiro and *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel’s Classroom* by Ariel Burger (winner of the 2018 National Jewish Book Award for Biography). You may even decide to mine these books for seder discussion material! Both books are available in our Library.

**ORIGIN STORIES**

The author of multiple memoirs, Dani Shapiro thought she knew everything about herself and her family, prominent Ashkenazi Jews whose portraits lined her walls. So, when Shapiro’s husband bought “his and hers” DNA test kits, she was not enthusiastic (she already knew her ancestry!), but agreed to participate.

As Shapiro narrates in *Inheritance*, her test results were puzzling. How could she be only 52 percent Jewish? Shapiro started researching and discovered, to her shock, that her biological father was not the beloved father who had raised her, but a sperm donor who was now a retired physician in Oregon. Shapiro wrestles with these questions in this soul-searching memoir.

What does it mean if your origin story changes? Are the people you thought of as your ancestors still your ancestors? Are family secrets inherently destructive? Shapiro questions whether they had deliberately concealed the truth from her. Possibly, they were unsure of the truth themselves; Shapiro’s parents had visited a fertility clinic, whose practice was to inseminate a would-be mother with a mixture of the sperm of the husband and of an anonymous donor, creating confusion about paternity.

**MORAL EDUCATION**

Although Elie Wiesel z’t’l is renowned as a Holocaust survivor, Nobel laureate, human rights activist, and author, he often said that his most important role was as a teacher. Rabbi Ariel Burger had the good fortune to be Elie Wiesel’s student, protégé, and longtime teaching assistant. Burger’s moving memoir, *Witness*, is a window into Elie Wiesel’s classroom in Boston University where Wiesel taught and mentored students for nearly 40 years.

Blending literature, history, philosophy, religion, and current events, Wiesel taught from a wide range of texts: the Hebrew Bible, teachings of Hasidic masters, classics of Western and Asian literature, and contemporary authors. Wiesel’s students were as diverse as his texts: they came from different countries and backgrounds. One class even included the granddaughter of a Nazi SS officer.

As a teacher, Wiesel strove to do more than merely transmit information. Haunted by the fact that many perpetrators of the Holocaust had been highly educated and erudite and yet immoral, Wiesel developed teaching methods that emphasized ethics along with knowledge. He assigned readings aimed at sensitizing students to the suffering of others, and he urged students to fight evil and hatred. Echoing the moral message of Passover, Wiesel told his students, “Anyone who is suffering, anyone who is threatened becomes your responsibility.”

This loving memoir is rooted in the profound teacher-student bond between Wiesel and Burger. Such a bond is hallowed in Jewish tradition, making Burger a spiritual (albeit not biological) descendant of Wiesel. Witness, like inheritance, invites reflection about the ancestors we inherit and those we choose.

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**AUTHOR CHAT**

**EMINENT JOURNALISTS STEPHEN SHEPARD AND LYNN Povich IN CONVERSATION**

Sunday, April 7, 10:00-11:00 am in the Library

Journalists and husband-and-wife Stephen Shepard and Lynn Povich discuss Steve’s latest book, *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-Reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers*. Steve is the Founding Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York. Previously, he served as a senior editor at Newsweek, editor of Saturday Review, and editor-in-chief of Business Week. Lynn is an award-winning journalist and the author of *The Good Girls Revolt* (now an Amazon Prime Original Series) about her participation in a 1970 suit against Newsweek magazine for sex discrimination.

All are welcome! Questions? Please contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Abraham & Anna Nathanson Youth Endowment Fund in Memory Of: Stanley Bobb by Phyllis & Mortor Lessmann

Anna Frank House Fund
In Memory Of: Robert Keimowitz by Hazel Keimowitz.

Burservance Fund
By: Drs. Sybil & Steve Wolin.
Beverly Bernstein Adult Bat Mitzvah Fund in Memory Of: Rose Bildman by Lois Levitan.


Congregational Kiddush Fund By: Aaron Gershock.
In Honor Of: Render mosaic of Joash & Saddie Goldberg by Adam & Monica Goldberg.

Daily Minyan Fund
In Memory Of: Karen Marks by April Rubin & Bruce Ray.
In Memory Of: Rachel (Missie) Weiss by Bill Levenson. My dad & I honor the daily minyan by Healey Sutton. Umberto Ancona by Mario Ancona.

Daily Minyan Breakfast Sponsor In Honor Of: Cameron Wheeler’s birthday by Bill Levenson.

Debra Goldberg Educational Fund
In Memory Of: Zita Stark by Dr. William & Vivienne Stark.

Extuls & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund
In Memory Of: Dorothy Warren by Florence Meyer.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund
In Memory Of: Lillian Podgorsky & for David Polonsky’s help, support & friendship during the week following our mother’s death by Arnold Podgorsky & Christy Larsen.


Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund
In Memory Of: Sol Linowes by Harry & Judie Linowes.


Kol Halom Concert Sponsorship By: Janet Scolier.

Lillian & Daniel Eizen Fund for Ritual Objects In Memory Of: Daniel Eizin & Joel S. Ganz by Rhoda Ganz.

Mitzvah Fund
Mazel Tov To: Ethan Waxman & Nina Mullen on their marriage by Gayle & Howard Teicher.
With Thanks To: Naomi Malak for working with Dianne Schwartz & Jamie Geller before their wedding by Sid Schwartz & Sandra Perlstein. In Memory Of: Stanley Bobb by Patty Schwarz & Sandra Perlstein.

Rhoda Goldman Memorial Religous School Endowment In Honor Of: Birth of Susan & Michael Geller’s grandson by Glenn & Cindy Easton.


Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education
In Memory Of: Elaine Semel Sorcher by Dale & Alan Sorcher.

Sandra & Stanley Bobb Endowment Fund

Rabbi Holtzbatt Discretionary Fund In Honor Of: Nicholas Thomas-Brown by Debbie & Jud Sonnen. Rabbi Holtzbatt by the Waxman family.
In Memory Of: Lillian Podgorsky In appreciation of Rabbi Holtzbatt leading the shiva minyan by Christy Larsen. Stanley Macklin by Linda & Sid Moskowitz.

Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wolfh Masorti Fund By: Stephen Sholl.

Rabbi Krinsky Discretionary Fund In Honor Of: Rabbi Krinsky by Marcie Katzen.
For the Speedy Recovery Of: Max David Katzen & Elena Rosner by M.J. Slotsky. Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.).

Refugee Support Project In Honor Of: Elaine Feidman’s special birthday by Bobbi & Allan Fried.

Return Again By: Renée Matalon & Stephen Marcus.

Rhoda Goldman Memorial Religous School Endowment In Honor Of: Birth of Susan & Michael Geller’s grandson by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Yes, there was a group of us, we had a lot of fun! I have been in some phase or form of Paleo or Keto/low-carb for the past several years, so Pesach preparation in my house is pretty simple. I am also fortunate to have great friends who invite me to their seder, so I am usually a guest who is happy to bring wine or a dish to the seder. I don’t particularly like to cook, so I don’t have any favorite recipes; I just have dishes that I will myself to prepare so that I have healthier meals at least some of the time. As far as matzah toppings, I actually don’t mind eating matzah plain, but if I’m going to dress it up a bit, I usually go with almond butter.

Springtime in DC is a big thing. And while we’re doing this interview, it’s 60 degrees in February. What are some of your favorite things to do in the city during springtime? When spring truly hits, I like to occasionally take a walk along Reno Road. It can be a very peaceful walk, a good way to wind down after a busy work day, and when the weather is nice it is quite lovely. Spring is also the start of baseball season, and I love to go to baseball games, especially in the evening on warmer days—the weather is perfect. Disclaimer: my friends and I are not really watching the game all that closely. The game more so serves as a venue to facilitate our socializing!