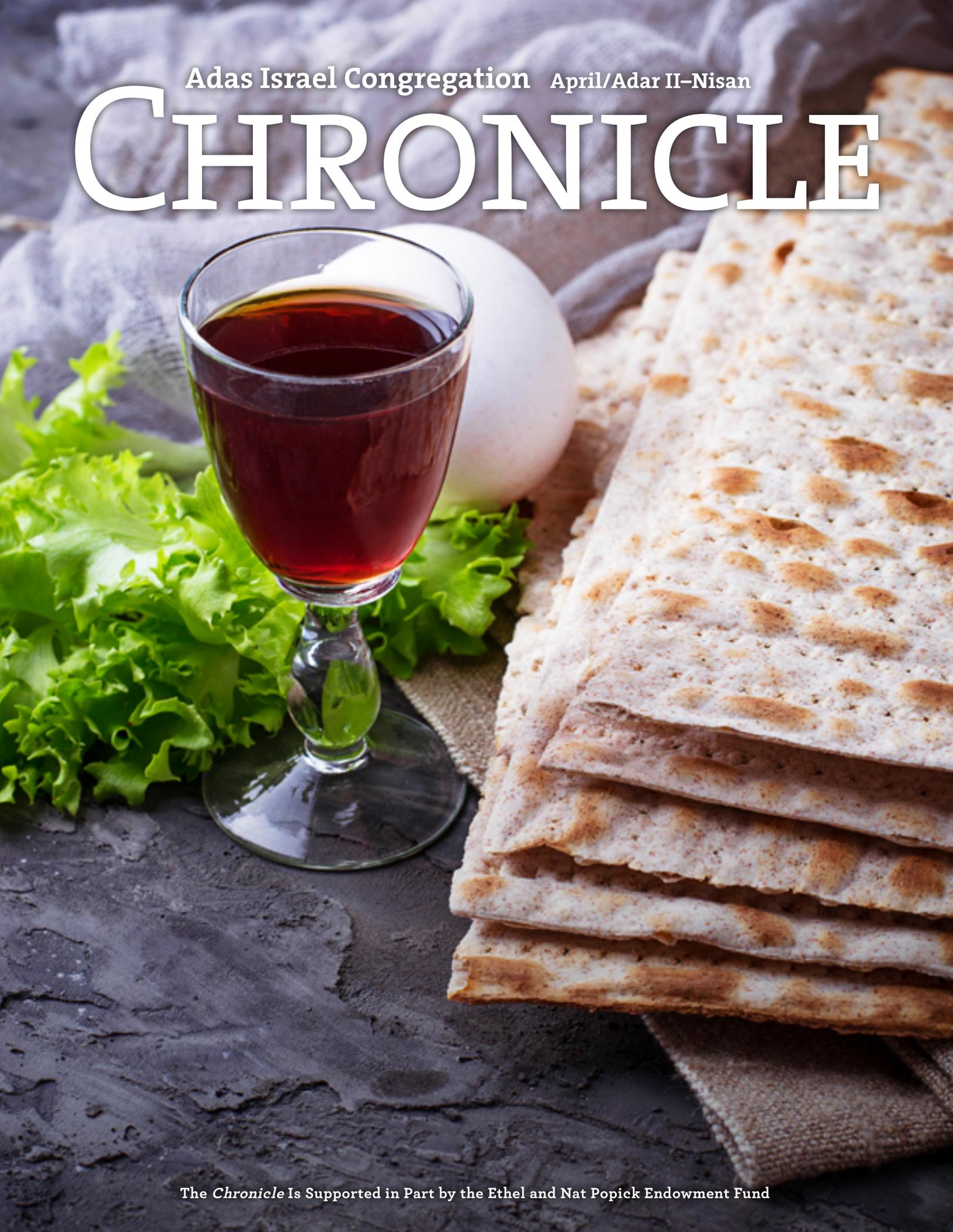


Adas Israel Congregation April/Adar II-Nisan

# CHRONICLE



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



# From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT



## "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 *aliyah* at his synagogue (not ours) recently, in honor of his 75th birthday. The happiness he derived from that *aliyah* 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 *aliyah*. 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 know this arrangement is less than ideal (we have so many community members, a wonderful challenge!) and 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, and celebrating a *simcha* with your synagogue community might not be at the top of your to-do list. But, as much as possible, we ask that you please continue to let us know how we can honor you. It's important to us.

Why is that? Why is it important? Because we've been experiencing a culture shift at Adas Israel. For almost two years, our clergy, our lay leaders, and our staff have been focused – with great intention – on deepening the connection our members

have to Adas Israel and to each other. A healing service. Weekly telephone calls to our most senior members, just to say "Hello, how are you, we're thinking about you, *Shabbat Shalom*." Meals for families with new babies. An Ambassador Program at *Kiddush* with someone who looks for people who seem a bit lost and then introduces them to some of our members. *Rosh Hashanah* gift bags delivered to our newest members and our oldest ones.

I recently saw a list of activities that our Hesed Committee and its components, our Member Connector Committee and our Bereavement Committee, are involved in. It's two pages, single-spaced, and includes 30 current activities, plus 13 others either in the planning stage or under exploration. Can you imagine? This is the engine, well-oiled and loving, that drives the work 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](mailto: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.



# Clergy Corner

RABBI LAUREN HOLTZBLATT

**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 prep for our family *seder* I think about the issues of the day and how we might 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 ourselves 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 Pimintel who serves as executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (<http://www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org>) in Brownsville, Tex. 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, Tex. 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 that will bring them to the place where their American sponsors live. At HRC they are given a hot shower, an opportunity to find lightly used clothing and new shoes, shoelaces (which are taken at the border), hot food and a loving embrace.

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 Neighborhood Settlement where groups of volunteers would gather nightly to trek across the Mexican border by foot to feed, clothe and give love to immigrants waiting to claim asylum at the Port of Entry in Brownsville. Arbitrary closures and declining numbers of permitted entries at the border have created a "tent city" on the Mexican side of the border. Families wait for days, weeks, months- sleeping in tents so that they do not miss the chance to enter when 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 our goodbyes 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. By the simple fate of chance, I could cross back in freely- 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 hold a piece of that story inside of us and may we leave our *sedarim* ready to help those who need our voices and our ability to witness so desperately now. *Hag Pesach Sameach*.



## PASSOVER @ ADAS

FRIDAY, APRIL 19—SATURDAY, APRIL 27

*Chag Sameach!* The eight-day festival of Passover commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It is observed by avoiding leaven, and highlighted by the *seder* meals that include four cups of wine, eating *matzah* and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus. Please join us at Adas as we celebrate the holiday of freedom!

### HOLIDAYS @ ADAS



*You are invited to...*

## 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.

Register online at [adasisrael.org/Passover](http://adasisrael.org/Passover).



## Lessons from Moses on Privilege A Haggadah Supplement

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 @ 7:30 PM

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](http://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 *pesachdik* (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 (*hanaah*) 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*
- bittul hametz*—a formula for renouncing *hametz* inadvertently missed
- be'ur hametz*—burning *hametz*
- mehirat 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." This is normally done through the synagogue for the entire congregation. Please fill out the form in this *Chronicle* and send it to **Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith by April 16**. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

## Bedikat Hametz, Thursday Evening, April 18

The search for leaven, a lovely home ceremony of searching for the leaven with a candle, feather, and wooden spoon, is an indication that all other preparations are complete. It is customarily done at nightfall (immediately after sunset) on the night before Passover when we search for and symbolically eliminate all remaining leavening from the house. This is an especially enjoyable ceremony for your children. The *Kol Hamira* formula for nullifying unseen *hametz*, which can be found at the beginning of many *haggadot*, should be recited at this time and in the morning when the *hametz* is disposed of.

The search is performed in the following manner:

- Place 10 pieces of (visible size) bread in various locations throughout the house.
- Recite the following blessing: **Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu**

**melech ha-olam asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivonu al biur hametz**, and then proceed (traditionally with a lighted candle, a feather, and a wooden spoon) to look for any leaven that can be found.

c. The pieces of bread should be gathered in a container, such as a small cardboard box.

d. After the 10 pieces of bread, and whatever other leavened food is gathered, make the following declaration: "All manner of leaven that is in my possession which I have not seen or have not removed, or have no knowledge of, shall be null and disowned as the dust of the earth."

## Siyyum Bechorim, Friday Morning, April 19

The fast of the firstborn is a time-honored custom that recognizes God's role in history. On the day before Passover, it is customary for those who are firstborn to fast as an expression of gratitude that they, unlike the Egyptians' firstborn, were saved. However if they attend a *siyyum* (a public completion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud) on the morning before Passover, they are exempted from fasting and may eat. Thus any firstborn who participates in the ceremony may eat. This is known as the *Siyyum Bechorim*. As do many congregations, we hold a *siyyum* (the celebration of concluding a section of the *Mishna*). Our *siyyum* will take place as part of the morning minyan on **Friday morning, March 30, at 7:15 am**.

**Seudat Mitzvah**, this small meal follows and a firstborn who is present may eat, and need not fast that day (following the *Siyyum Bechorim*).

## Biur Hametz, Friday Morning, April 19

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 koshered 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 sundown.

### Candlelighting Times:

- Friday, March 30, Light candles at 7:11 pm
- Saturday, March 31, Light candles *after* 8:12 pm
- Thursday, April 5, Light candles at 7:17 pm
- Friday, April 6, 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:

ברוך אתה יי א-לוקינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצוותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של שבת וישל יום טוב.

*Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav*



*v'tzevanu l'hadleek ner shel Shabbat v'shel 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:

ברוך אתה יי א-לוקינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגייגנו לגונו הזה.

*Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'hecheyanu, v'kee'manu, v'heegee anu lazman 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](mailto:Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org)) by Tuesday, April 16.

Dear Hazzan Goldsmith:

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*.

Please print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE 2019/5779

### Erev Pesach, Friday, April 19

7:15 am • Morning *Minyan* & *Pesach Siyyum* Service

8:00 am • *Pesach Siyyum* Breakfast

9:00 am • *Biur Chametz*

### Day 1, Saturday, April 20

9:30 am • Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan Pesach/Shabbat* Service; joined by the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

12:00 pm • Congregational *Pesach Kiddush*

1:00 pm • *Mincha* Service

7:30 pm • Adas Community Passover *Seder*

### Day 2, Sunday, April 21

9:30 am • Combined Smith and TEM *Pesach* Service

12:00 pm • Congregational *Pesach Kiddush*

12:45 pm • *Mincha* Service (No Evening Service)

### Day 3, Monday, April 22

7:15 am • Morning *Minyan*

6:00 pm • Evening *Minyan*

### Day 4, Tuesday, April 23

7:15 am • Morning *Minyan*

6:00 pm • Evening *Minyan*

### Day 5, Wednesday, April 24

7:15 am • Morning *Minyan*

6:00 pm • Evening *Minyan*

### Day 6, Thursday, April 25

7:15 am • Morning *Minyan*

6:00 pm • Evening *Minyan*

### Day 7, Friday, April 26

9:15 am • Combined Smith/TEM *Pesach* Service

12:00 pm • *Pesach Kiddush* Luncheon (no registration required)

6:00 pm • *Kabbalat Chag*

### Day 8, Saturday, April 27

9:15 am • *Pesach/Shabbat* Morning Service; *Yizkor* at 11 am

9:15 am • TEM *Pesach/Shabbat* Service; *Yizkor*

12:00 pm • Congregational *Pesach Kiddush*

1:00 pm • *Mincha*





# 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 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 Committees, 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 want your money. All suggested contributions are just that—suggested. **We will never turn anyone away from full participation due to finances.** Now, it certainly requires the commitment of many to ensure our continued viability, and to sustain this value. So, while requests for financial assistance should never be taken lightly, a confidential conversation with our executive director about finances is always available to you, should you need it.



## The Three Fundamentals of Adas Israel's Finances

1.

### The Annual Operating Budget

money in, money out, each fiscal year

2.

### The Congregation's Endowment

long-term gifts for our future, and for right now!

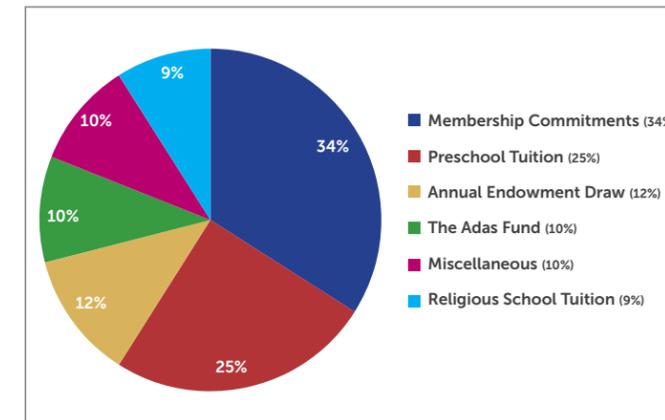
3.

### The Synagogue Reserves

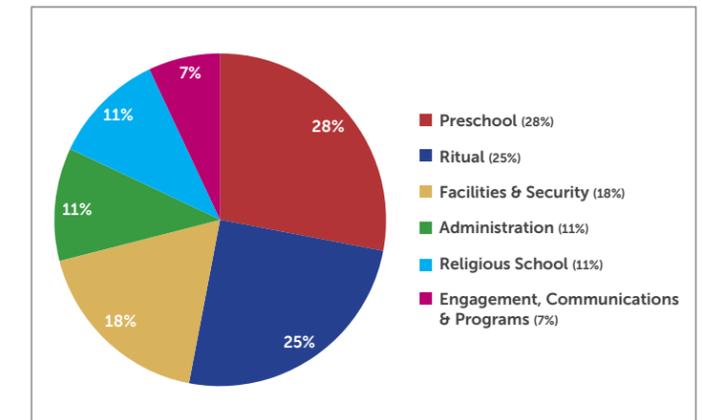
ensuring the Congregation has what it needs to deal with whatever inevitably comes

## 1. The Annual Operating Budget (FY18/19 projected)\*

Revenue, of \$8.5 million\*



Expenses, of \$8.5 million\*



## 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.



## 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.

### 2018 Security Budget

\$325,000

### 2019 Projected Security Budget

\$490,000

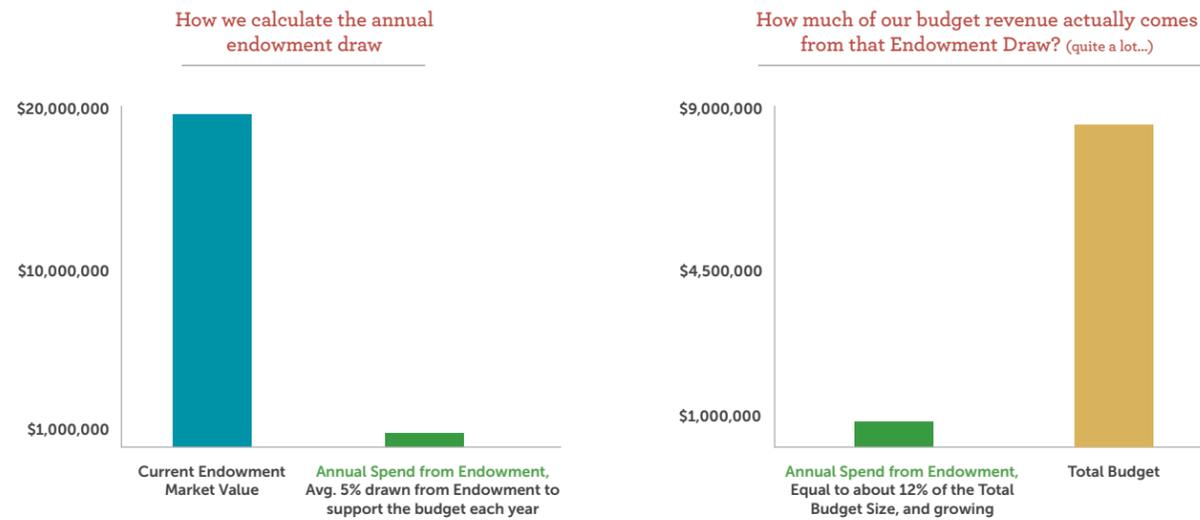


## 2. The Congregation's Endowment

The Endowment is a collection of literally hundreds of different principal contributions from Adas 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.)



## 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.)



### The Net Operating Reserve

**Current Balance: \$620,000**  
Goal for this account: \$850,000\*

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



### The Building/Capital Fund

**Current Balance: \$650,000**  
Goal for this account: \$2,000,000\*

\*Based on latest engineering assessment, anticipating major ongoing building maintenance and depreciation needs.

## There's More to Learn. Questions? Comments? Reach Out.

Our Board of Directors and Finance Committees are committed to 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](mailto: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.**



# Garden of the Righteous



## 2019 Honoree: Honoring the Memory of Sir Nicholas Winton of Great Britain Erev Yom HaShoah, Wed., May 1 @ 7:00 pm

On Wednesday evening May 1, 2019, Erev Yom HaShoah, Adas Israel Congregation will honor the memory of Sir Nicholas Winton (1909-2015) from Great Britain.

Winton was a 29-year-old stockbroker who organized trains out of Prague in 1939 to secure the safe passage of children, most of them Jewish, from Czechoslovakia to England before the outbreak of World War II in an operation later known as the Czech Kindertransport. Winton raised money to fund the transportation of the children and also the 50 pound per child guarantee demanded by the British government to fund the children's eventual return ticket. He also had to find British families willing to care for the refugee children. Between March and August 1939, Winton was able to bring 669 children out of Czechoslovakia to England. A final train of 250 children, due to depart on September 1, 1939, was prevented from leaving when Germany invaded Poland and all borders were closed. This put an end to Winton's rescue efforts. Most of the parents and siblings of the children Winton saved perished in the Holocaust.

Nicholas Winton's rescue efforts remained virtually unknown until 1988, when his wife Grete found a detailed scrapbook from 1939 in their attic, containing lists and photos of the children, including their parents' names and the names and addresses of the families that took them in. The scrapbook made its way to Dr. Elisabeth Maxwell, a Holocaust historian and wife of the newspaper magnate Robert Maxwell. Soon Winton found himself featured in British newspapers. In February 1988, Winton was invited to be a member of the audience on the BBC television program, That's Life, along with many of the children he rescued for an emotional reunion with the man who saved their lives. When Winton's work became recognized around the world, the British press dubbed him the "British Schindler." Taking into the account the children and grandchildren of those he saved, there are estimated to be around 6,000 people in the world today who owe him their lives.



The Adas Israel Garden of the Righteous is a beautiful reminder of numerous acts of decency and daring performed by many non-Jews in the midst of one of the most tragic moments in human history. This program, initiated in 1992 by Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg to honor non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, is supported in part by the Peter Dreyer Memorial Fund, the Scott Dreyer Fund, and the Ryna & Melvin Cohen Senior Rabbi Program Fund. The entire community is cordially invited for this moving event. We look forward to seeing you there.

**THE HEART OF HOME**

Judaism's Multi-TEXTured, Spiritual, Architectural Guide to Sacred Space

MakomDC 

@ Adas Israel 

2018-2019 

**MakomDC 2018-19 Season**

The Heart of "Home": Judaism's Multi-Textured, Spiritual, Architectural Guide to Sacred Space

Over the course of the year, our rabbis and distinguished scholars will lead us in guided text study, conversations, and presentations that explore the Jewish tradition's essential teachings on defining holy community. Together we'll navigate the particular values that bind us and the universal ideas that inspire us, and then think together about where they do and don't intersect. **To learn more visit [adasisrael.org/makomdc](http://adasisrael.org/makomdc).** Register for lectures or classes online or by calling 202-362-4433.

**MAKOMDC APRIL LEARNING**



FEBRUARY MAKOMDC SCHOLAR:  
**Rabbi Dr. David Hoffman**

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.

*\*This event will be livestreamed at [adasisrael.org/adaslive](http://adasisrael.org/adaslive).*



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

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 with Rabbi Aaron Alexander

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 @ 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 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 with Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

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.

ONGOING LEARNING:



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 with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt or Rabbi Aaron Alexander

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM

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

# Mazal Tov & Thank You to Carol Ansell

BELOVED ADAS ISRAEL RECEPTIONIST 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 *kvelling* more over Carol in the days ahead. In the meantime, please stop by to wish her a *Mazal Tov* and *Toda Raba*. :)



A special learning opportunity in the Biran Beit Midrash! Cantor Ari met with some of our littlest Adas learners to talk about her *tallit*, *kippah*, and *tefillin*. (Photos by Menuhah Peters)



UPCOMING 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](http://adasisrael.org/israel).



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 JCRC 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](http://adasisrael.org/israel).

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.

### Rabbi Jill Jacobs

Rabbi Jill 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 Mandel Institute Jerusalem Fellows Program.

### 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 Fellow at the *Wall Street Journal*. She graduated from Barnard College and Columbia University with a degree in English literature.

### 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



# MM 18 19

## Musical Moments at Adas

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

### DC Klezmer Workshop

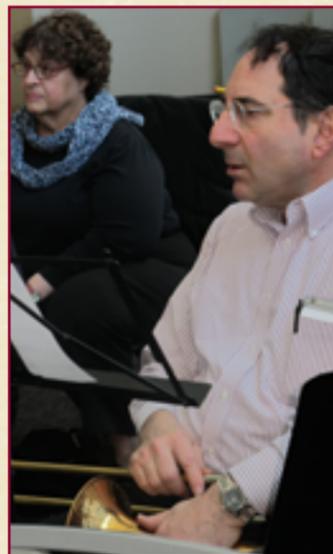


### DC Klezmer Workshop Sunday April 14 @ 2:00 pm

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](https://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!

**Hosts:** Kim & Steven Aftergood, Melissa Boteach & Adam Kaplan, Michelle Buzgon & Jay Kirschenbaum, Nancy Cohen & Alex Boyar, Jackie Eyl & Leonard Chanin, Rachel Farbiarz & Alex Laskey, Miriam Fischer Wachter & Eric Wachter, Ken Goldstein, Julia Gordon & Geoff Berman, Ellen Hamilton & Mark Katkov, Deborah Isser & Benjamin Herzberg, Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman, Joanne Kenen & Rabbi Ken Cohen, Patricia Levy-Zuckerman & Stuart Zuckerman, Rabbi Devorah Lynn & Fred Lipshultz, Amanda Maisels & Tom Oscherwitz, Carol Mates & Mark Kahan, Jessica & David Nemeth, Lynn Palmer & Bob Peck, Bonnie & Sandy Roskes, Amy & Mark Rotenberg, Amy Schwartz & Eric Koenig, Margie Siegel, Maria Laszlo-Sloan & Michael Sloan, Lauren Strauss & Jonathan Meyer, Healey Sutton, Miriam & Adam Szubin, Stig Trommer, Susan Wedlan & Harold Rosen, Kinney Zalesne & Scott Siff, and Shana & Rob Zucker.



[adasisrael.org/musicalmoments](https://adasisrael.org/musicalmoments)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 24 Adar II 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 1:00 pm Intro to Jewish Mindfulness 4:00 pm JUFJ 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>1</b> 25 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>2</b> 26 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh: Celebrating New Moon 7:00 pm Sisterhood Travel Presentation 7:30 pm MakomDC: Take Two, Two Takes	<b>3</b> 27 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Lunar Flow Yoga 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	<b>4</b> 28 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 12:15 pm JCC Bible Class 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>5</b> 29 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Hazzan Goldsmith 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service w/ Rabbi Krinsky 8:30 pm Shir Delight Dinner	<b>6 PARSHAT TAZRIA/SHABBAT HACHODESH/ ROSH CHODESH</b> 8:30 am Boker Ohr Torah Study 9:15 am Shabbat Morning Musical Service Bar Mitzvah: Noah Pan Stier w/ Rabbi Solmon Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Parsha For Kids 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 7:30 pm Intro To Judaism 2.0 8:15 pm Havdalah
<b>7</b> 2 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:00 am Intro to Jewish Mindfulness 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>8</b> 3 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>9</b> 4 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Weekday Torah w/ Sisterhood 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC: Rabbi Dr. David Hoffman	<b>10</b> 5 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW Lunar Flow Yoga 7:00 pm YP Kosher Wine Tasting 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	<b>11</b> 6 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 12:15 pm JCC Bible Class 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>12</b> 7 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am Parsha with Hassidut 6:30 pm Return Again Service w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander 7:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm TEM Shabbat Dinner	<b>13 PARSHAT METZORA/SHABBAT HAGADOL</b> 8 Nisan 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah: Sydney Lowit Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Parsha For Kids 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha 1:00 pm MakomDC Halakhah Learning 8:22 pm Havdalah
<b>14</b> 9 Nisan 8:45 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Passover Prep Session 10:30 am JMCW: Wise Aging 1:00 pm DC Klezmer Workshop 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>15</b> 10 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>16</b> 11 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm The Generational Divide 7:30 pm MakomDC: The Text	<b>17</b> 12 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 4:00 pm DCJCC: Blood Drive 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm JMCW: Lunar Flow Yoga 7:00 pm JSC Class 7:30 pm Sisterhood Knits, Sews, Crafts 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 8:15 pm JSC Class	<b>18</b> 13 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 12:15 pm JCC Bible Class 1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>19</b> 14 Nisan 7:15 am Morning Minyan - Pesach Siyyum Service 9:00 am Buir Chametz 7:29 pm Erev Pesach	<b>20 PESACH DAY 1</b> 15 Nisan 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Pesach Service joined by Smith 9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Parsha for Kids 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 7:30 pm Community Passover Seder 8:29 pm Havdalah 8:32 pm Light Candles
<b>21</b> 16 Nisan 9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Pesach D'var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 12:45 pm Mincha Pesach Day 2	<b>22</b> 17 Nisan 7:15 am Morning Minyan - Chol HaMoed Pesach 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>23</b> 18 Nisan 7:15 am Morning Minyan - Chol HaMoed Pesach 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>24</b> 19 Nisan 7:15 am Morning Minyan - Chol HaMoed Pesach 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>25</b> 20 Nisan 7:15 am Morning Minyan - Chol HaMoed Pesach 12:15 pm JCC Bible Class 6:00 pm Kabbalat Chag w/ Cantor Brown 7:34 pm Light Candles	<b>26</b> 21 Nisan 9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Pesach Service D'Var Torah by Rabbi Krinsky 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Rabbi Alexander Pesach Day 7	<b>27 PESACH DAY 8</b> 22 Nisan 9:15 am Pesach Service/In Harmony/Yizkor Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:15 am TEM Pesach Service/Yizkor 11:00 am Family Services 11:00 am Parsha for Kids 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha 8:35 pm Havdalah
<b>28</b> 23 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am JMCW: Wise Aging 2.0 1:30 pm JIDS: Empowering Women 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>29</b> 24 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>30</b> 25 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JMCW Program 7:30 pm MakomDC: Synthesis & Application	<b>1</b> 26 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan - Yom HaShoah 7:00 pm Garden of the Righteous Program 9:00 pm Garden of the Righteous Reception	<b>2</b> 27 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan/Yom HaShoah 12:15 pm JCC Bible Class 1:00 pm Sisterhood Mah Jongg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	<b>3</b> 28 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut 5:30 pm 3rd Grade Chagigat HaSiddur Ceremony & L'Dor VaDor Service w/ Rabbi Holtzblatt, Cantor Brown & Rabbi Solomon 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:00 pm L'Dor VaDor Dinner 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service w/ Rabbi Alexander 8:30 pm Shir Delight Dinner	<b>4 PARSHAT ACHREI MOT</b> 29 Nisan 8:30 am Boker Ohr Torah Study 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Musical Service Sermon By Rabbi Holtzblatt Bar Mitzvah: Devin Cohen 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Bar Mitzvah: Wyatt Dunn w/ Rabbi Alexander 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Parsha For Kids 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha 1:15 pm Lev B'Lev Speaker 8:42 pm Havdalah

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

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

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

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. Netivot, for students in grades K-3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden.  
'Dial-in' for Programs & Services: If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-686-8405.  
Library Open on Shabbat: Our third-floor library is open on Shabbat following services. You may sign out materials using our "no-writing Shabbat method," explained in signs on the check-out desks. For assistance during the week, contact our Director of Library Services, Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).

# JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington

*Whatever it is that constricts you or enslaves you, you have to ask, "What is holding me back, what is my inner slavery? What keeps me from being in touch with the deepest parts of myself, with the presence of God in myself, and how do I liberate myself from it?"*

RABBI ARTHUR GREEN

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 hurried exodus from Egypt, she goes "out from Egypt about ten times a day," when constricted 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

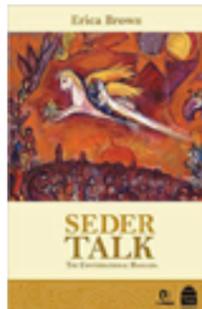
WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30-8:30 PM

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](mailto: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](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)) for more information.

We can be redeemed only to the extent to which we see ourselves.  
—Martin Buber

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Return Again to *Shabbat*

with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander & The Return Again Band

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 @ 6:30 PM

This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! Join us for a reflective journey into the power of *Shabbat*. The evening features seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song. A Community *Shabbat* dinner follows this service; reservations are required. Please see the JMCW Adas web page.



### 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 Alesandra Zsiba

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 @ 7:00-9:00 PM

Women of all ages, experiences, and identifications are invited to join us 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 web page.** This ongoing monthly offering is co-sponsored by the Adas Mikvah and usually includes an optional immersion in our beautifully renovated Community Mikvah.



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](http://adasisrael.org/jmcw), where you can also subscribe to our weekly newsletter. Find us on Facebook, JMCW at Adas Israel!

For registrations, updates, and additional information and offerings, please visit the JMCW web page, [adasisrael.org/jmcw](http://adasisrael.org/jmcw) or the JMCW Facebook Group. Please direct any questions to: [alesandra.zsiba@adasisrael.org](mailto:alesandra.zsiba@adasisrael.org).

[adasisrael.org/jmcw](http://adasisrael.org/jmcw)



# Education & Youth @ ADAS ISRAEL

## 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 posing 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 *sederim* be vehicles for us all to celebrate with those around us, to remember those no longer with us, and, as always, to learn more about ourselves 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



## 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 leaning 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 are 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 *ometz*—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 HaYeled



### Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 21–Sunday, April 28  
Spring Break/*Pesach*

Tuesday, April 30  
Religious School resumes



# Ma Tovvu

Lauren Queen

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

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

**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 I have discovered is exactly 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 also just fun to say—and it's an easy pronoun 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, so I don't expect to be anywhere near fluent anytime soon. But I'm enjoying it, so I will keep 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 an Adas regular; sometimes here multiple times a**

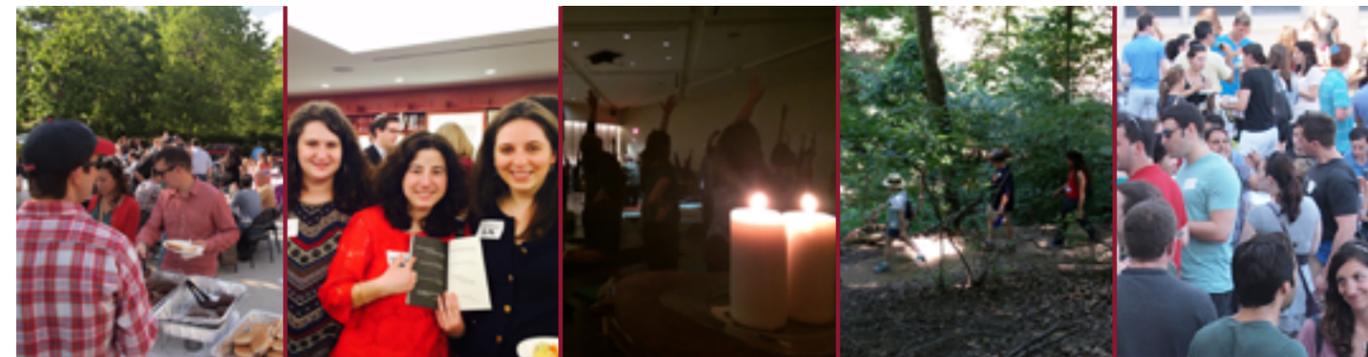
**week. What brings you here so often?**

Adas offers many ways to connect and engage with the community; I truly believe there is something at Adas for everyone. For me, I enjoy *Shabbat* services and the Return Again service, so I attend those fairly regularly. I'm also here for various speakers, learnings, and events, and for Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) and Social Action Committee (SAC) meetings. Being involved and getting engaged in these various ways has been meaningful for me and has helped me feel connected and part of the Adas community. It has also led to some great friendships. Community is a big part of Judaism and being part of a warm, welcoming, and vibrant Jewish community is important to me, and I have that here at Adas.

**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  
*Continued on pg. 35*



YP@AI  
youngprofessionals/adasisrael

a community for young Jewish adults.

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

## Brunch & Learn Highlights

**Young Professionals schmooze, nosh, and delve into text study at a brunch and learn with Rabbi Alexander.**



learn more online:  
[adasisrael.org/YP](https://adasisrael.org/YP)



# sisterhoodnews

NETWORKING, NURTURING, LEARNING, SUSTAINING

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### Travel on the Edge: North Korea

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 @ 7:00 PM, FUNGER HALL

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](http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood).

### Save the Date! Closing Event

SUNDAY, JUNE 23 @ 11:00 AM, GEWIRZ BEIT AM

## ONGOING PROGRAMS



### Weekday Torah with Sisterhood

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 @ 10:00 AM, FUNGER HALL

Join us Tuesday, April 9, at 10:00 am, when Cantor Ari Brown will lead a class about the music and songs associated with *Pesach*.

*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. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. Classes are open to the entire Adas community, and participants are invited to bring a friend.

Most classes are at 10:00 am in Fungler Hall, meeting monthly except in the summer. Subsequent 2019 classes will be May 14 and June 11. For more information, please contact Marilyn Cooper, [marilyncooper70@gmail.com](mailto:marilyncooper70@gmail.com).



### Sisterhood Sewing, Knitting & Craft Circle

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30–9:00 PM, YOUTH LOUNGE  
NEXT UP: CHECK THE SISTERHOOD WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION

Members are welcome to continue their ongoing knitting, sewing, crocheting, and craft projects and to propose new projects. We ask members to donate leftover wool, which we use to knit or crochet squares for afghans. Contact Lesley Frost ([lesleyfrost0@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyfrost0@gmail.com)) for more information.



### Sisterhood in Your Community

NEXT UP: SUNDAY, APRIL 4 @ 11:00 AM

Sisterhood is again offering the very popular “Sisterhood in Your Community” Get-togethers on select Sundays until the early summer. These are brunches, wine and cheese gatherings, or teas hosted by Sisterhood members in a neighborhood near you. The purpose is for current members to get to know one another better and to have some fun. On Sunday, April 4, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, brunch will be hosted by Susan Winberg in Chevy Chase, MD. Hosts send out invitations to members who live in close proximity. But if you’re interested, contact June Kress (202-316-3439; [junebkress@gmail.com](mailto:junebkress@gmail.com)), and she will put you in touch with the host.



### Adas Book Club

EVERY OTHER MONTH ON A SUNDAY @ 10:00 AM IN THE LIBRARY

Next Up: Special author event Sunday, April 12 (see more information on the library page in this *Chronicle*)



### Torah Fund

Torah Fund contributions are welcome at any time and in any amount! Your contribution helps to educate future clergy and leaders for our communities by supporting scholarships and programming at Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning. Please send check, **payable to Torah Fund**, to Betty Adler, 6101 Shady Oak Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817. You can also reach Betty Adler at 340-999-2945 or [bettyadler1@gmail.com](mailto:bettyadler1@gmail.com).

*ruth & simon albert*

## sisterhood gift shop

The first Passover seder is Friday, April 19. We invite you to stop in to see our selection of beautiful seder plates and matzah holders, Elijah and Miriam cups, and *afkomen* bags. We also have a supply of *haggadahs* as well as holiday toys and games for children. And don't forget . . . frogs, frogs, frogs.



**Gift Shop Hours\***  
Sunday–Monday,  
Wednesday–Friday  
9:30 am–12:30 pm

**Tuesday, Special  
Extended Hours**  
9:30 am–3pm,  
6:00–8:00 pm

Every purchase benefits  
Adas Israel Congregation.  
202-364-2888  
[adasgiftshop@gmail.com](mailto:adasgiftshop@gmail.com)

**\*We will be closed on Sunday,  
April 21, Friday, April 26, and  
Sunday, April 28 for Passover &  
school vacation.**



# tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### Partnership with Café Justo



Adas Israel is proud to offer coffee from Café Justo, a collective founded and based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico, in 2002. The cooperative's model helps families to stay on their lands, giving farmers full control of the product throughout the process: cultivating, roasting, packaging, and exporting. In addition to being paid more for the coffee (about \$4 per kilo versus a little more than \$1 through an intermediary), Café Justo offers cooperative members health care and social security, 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 Urbina cooperative.

Café 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](http://justcoffee.org), or reach out to Brad Brooks-Rubin (SAC chair) at [barubin10@hotmail.com](mailto: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 handcrafted 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 *seder* 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 all 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.

We thank our generous donors, many of them Adas Israel members, who made contributions of \$250 or more in 2018 to Anne Frank House: Rhoda Baruch, Eric Bensky & Amber Cottle, Susan Berman & John Rogers, Richard Bernstein, David & Toni Bickart, Sander Bieber & Linda Rosenzweig, Martin & Helen Blank, Peter Bonnell, Sandra Braunstein, Megan Brown, Alan & Nancy Taylor Bubes, Robert & Maria Burka, Frances (z"l) & Sharon Burka, Stuart & Jamie Butler, Alex Candia, David & Judy Cohen, Richard Cooper & Judith Areen, Leslie & Bill Cordes, Kimberly Cox, Sue Ducat & Stan Cohen, Sheryl Fahey & Ken Colling, Rabbi Charles & Krayna Feinberg, Ellen Ficklen, Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz, Marian Fox & Stuart Horn, Zach Gast, William & Barbara Geffen, Marsha Gentner, Steven & Jane Gilbert, Jonathan & Laura Ginns, Edward & Jeri Greenberg, Neal and Ava Gross, Kenneth Heitner & Rhoda Ritzenberg, Edie

& Arthur Hessel, Kenneth & Kathy Ingber, Lorna Jaffe, Elyse Kaye, Hazel Keimowitz, Sheldon Kimmel, Edward & Nancy Kopf, June Kress, Debra & Josh Levin, Joshua & Laurie Lewin, Martin Lewin, Matthew Mariani & Meredith Josephs, Amy & Billy Mates Mencow, Robert Meehling, Alan Meltzer, Daniel & Jennifer Mendelson, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Roger & Sheila Meyer, Joy Midman, Frank and Marta Miller, John Mintz & Emily Yoffe, Michael Muldowney, Alfred Munzer & Joel Wind, Sandy & Lydia Parnes, Joel Piser & Jing Hsieh, Larry & Edna Povich, Mitchell & Allison Prince, Seth Rosenthal & Stephanie Robinson, Michael Rosman & Jessica Kasten, Gabriela & Amalia Rubin, Harry Sachse, Stanley Salus, Amy Schwartz & Eric Koenig, Steven & Lisa Schwat, Daniel & Sybil Silver, Dan Sokolov, Alan & Dale Sorcher, Richard & Irene Spero, Lisa Stand, Marcia Sternfeld, Peter Sufrin, Martha Taft & Fred Weiss, Denyse Tannenbaum & James Horwitz, Richard & Susan Ugelow, Sandy & Beth Ungar, Joel & Lael Wagner, Diane Abelman Wattenberg, Leesa Weiss, Gail & Robert Wilensky, Paul Zador, and Anthony Zador.

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](http://theannefrankhouse.org). Thank you!



### Hesed Feature of the Month: Hesed's New Baby Meal Train

Huge thanks to **Mary Hammer** for leading the Hesed Team that provides meals for families of new babies born into the Adas community.

Adas Israel has provided meals for 26 families with new babies in the past year to help them get settled. Most are first-time parents, while some have older children in the Gan, or are new to the area and/or the synagogue. Each family specifies its food preferences, dates, and location for drop-off.

Clark and Shaina Hagen said, "Thank you for the help while we were worrying about feeding and taking care of our new baby, Theo." And Jeff Davis and Deborah List stated how much they appreciated the support when Elijah was born and joined big brother Jacob to enlarge their family.



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](mailto: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 Jan:** 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



(including bones and necks for chicken soup) and eggs, and my grandmother spent all day Friday cooking. She taught me 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.



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 *Shabbat* dinner there all the time, and she made blondies. She was also a pretty good cook. When I graduated from college in 1974, she gave me the blondie recipe and I have made it ever since. It's always a hit. It's *parve*, and that's the dessert I usually put in my *Hesed* meals. I sift and measure the dry ingredients for about 10 batches at a time, put them in a zipper plastic bag, and label them, which makes baking easy.

When I entered college, I started cooking dinner for my mother every night. I was a commuter student at Goucher and went to the Baltimore Hebrew College two nights a week and on Sunday. On Sundays my father would barbeque, and my mother would make a *parve* soufflé for dessert. Baked Alaska was the dessert of choice when we had fish. My mother didn't cook much; she had other, more important things to do in the world. She was a physical chemist and understood the principles of cooking and baking very precisely. She gave me

guidance with respect to the general principles of cooking and baking but was very precise with her recipes and taught me to be as well. After all, she was a chemist, and, if you're not precise, you can blow up the world.

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 *farbessered und fartayched* 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 *minyanares*, 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.

## 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 Erev Yom Tov

Thursday, April 25

Schools/Offices Close at 3:30 pm

### Passover Days 7 & 8

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27

Schools/Offices Closed



## BIRTHS

**Maya Rose Rueven**, daughter of Sarah & Daniel Rueven, born February 1

**Ezra Solomon Sokol**, son of Rachel & Jake Sokol, born February 8

**Collin Jack Feifer**, son of Jennifer Miller & Jason Feifer, born February 8

**Julie Gabrielle Kossak**, daughter of Jonathan & Amy Kossak, born February 18

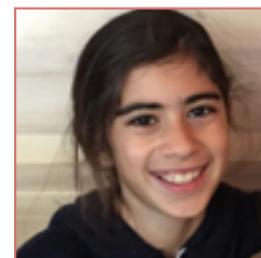
**Ezra Max Berger**, son of Rebecca & Alex Berger, born February 22

## B'NAI MITZVAH



### 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 HaYeled, 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 (z"l), for whom she was named. For her *mitzvah* project, Sydney is working on ways to educate her generation about the Holocaust.

## 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  
Marianne Hyman, mother of Lori Rones  
Tamara Kleinfeld Selden, mother of David Selden

## ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING

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

## LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION

### When Death Occurs

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

### Bereavement Committee

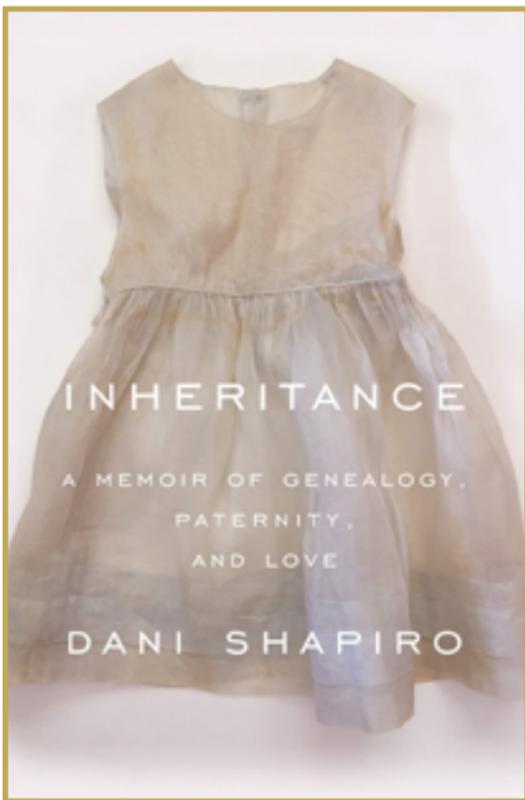
The Bereavement Committee assists families with all of the arrangements surrounding the funeral and subsequent burial of loved ones. We welcome your interest and encourage your participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone whom you think might be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



# Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

## 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.

This astounding revelation sent Shapiro reeling: "[M]y entire history—the life I had lived—had crumbled beneath me." How could she survive, she wondered, "this new knowledge that I was made up of my mother and a stranger?" Shapiro's parents were long dead, leaving Shapiro to grapple with the painful



question of 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.

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 wrestles with these questions in this soul-searching memoir.

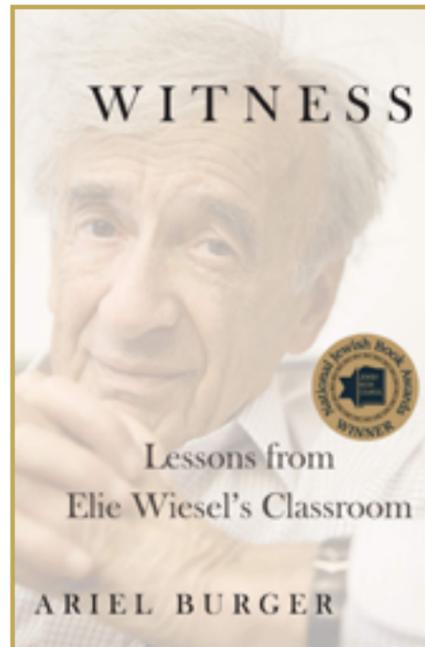
### MORAL EDUCATION

Although Elie Wiesel z"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.



### 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](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)).



## SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**Abraham & Anna Nathanson Youth Endowment Fund**  
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**Daily Minyan Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Karen Marks** by April Rubin & Bruce Ray. **Richard T. Gershbock** by Bill Levenson. My dad & in honor of the daily *minyan* by Healey Sutton.  
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*In Memory Of:* **Stanley Bobb** by Patty Andringa.

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## Ma Tovu (cont.)

Lauren Queen

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

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

focused on recognizing and celebrating the wonderful diversity of Judaism and identifying, and addressing, the unconscious biases, assumptions, and microaggressions that often come about when interacting with Jews of color. We are looking to move Adas beyond being welcoming to being inclusive. This applies to non-Jewish people of color as well, of course, and we include this in our work on the RJWG. But this is something we need to address within our own community before we start trying to address racial injustices in the larger, non-Adas community (think glass house scenario).

There is an upcoming RJWG event in anticipation of Pesach (see page 4 for details). We welcome anyone at Adas who wants to be involved in this work. We meet quarterly; feel free to join us at those meetings or reach out to us any time.

**I was lucky enough to sit with you at one of our Community Passover seders a couple of years ago. Passover is quickly coming up. How do you prepare for Passover? Do you have any favorite recipes or matzah toppings?**

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 *seders*, 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!



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**Congregation**

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