Adas Israel Congregation  June/Iyar–Sivan

INTRODUCING OUR 5780 HIGH HOLY DAY THEME:

PATHWAYS

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

RIDE-ALONG ENCLOSED
During the past two years, I’ve written a lot about activities here that impact our lives. I want to leave you with some thoughts about the impact of our staff and our clergy.

A synagogue is a busy and challenging non-profit, like any other. No one works here to become famous, nor is anyone here for the money. I assure you (and how I wish we could pay more). Our staff is here because they’ve made a commitment to improve the world and care for people, and they’ve chosen to do that by working at Adas Israel, many of them for a remarkably long time. Each member of our staff influences our community in a positive way and we should be thanking them every time we see them.

I’ve gotten to know the rock stars on our maintenance team; each gives his all every day to ensure we proudly look our best, plus they’re a highlight of our Purim videos. Our security personnel protect us, sure, and because they’re also part of our team, they know many members’ names. Our accounting folks are devoted to our financial success, much more than paying our bills on time. And you’d never know by the volume and quality of its output that our communications department consists of exactly one-and-a-half extremely talented people. Our ritual and education staffs ensure everyone is where they should be when they should be there, including Б’наи Мitzvah families. And our administrative staff, the people involved with programs and committees and member engagement, consistently deliver experiences that far exceed expectations.

One person is ultimately held accountable for all this. David Polonsky is a man with talent, capacity, and wisdom well beyond his years. I’ve had the privilege of meeting with him regularly to discuss ongoing projects and the direction the board wants to lead the congregation. Beyond his skill in translating ideas into ideas into action, he has been my partner always, my confidant, my psychiatrist more often, and I hope he’ll be a dear friend for many years to come. He is as much a part of Adas as our walls, and he holds us together in the spiritual equivalent.

Our clergy, too, become partners with the President, and I’ve left every meeting feeling uplifted. Cantor Ariane Brown, Rabbi Khinit Solomon, and Rabbi Sarah Kristol are consummate professionals, each accomplished in her field far beyond her years (or year) therein. Similarly, Ritual Director Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith has lovingly energized our ritual life. But it’s our Senior Rabbis, Holtziab and Alexander, with whom I’ve worked most closely, meeting together almost every week to plan how best to serve our congregation. And I don’t know how to describe them.

When one is given the opportunity to hold something rare and precious, one must do so with extraordinary care and love.

One must nurture it and protect it and be grateful to the Kodesh Baruch Hu for it every day. So it is with the membership of this congregation and our Senior Rabbis. With their knowledge, compassion, and wisdom, their daily modeling of Jewish values, they set the tone for what Adas Israel is and what we become. Their vision enriches us. What they teach us, by deed as much as by word, is how to live our best lives. That means our responsibility is to reflect back — to the world — the love and light they bring us. No, they’re not perfect; they are, after all, human, just like us. One of them might sometimes forget to pick up one of their kids from somewhere, and the other one might ride a scooter around the building without a helmet. Human, just like us.

I’ve been told that Adas Israel elects the president we need at just the right time, but we don’t always know it in advance. We do know it, though, with our next president, Laurie Aladajm. While on the Executive Committee, she’s focused on the development needs of the congregation and is thus well placed to ensure our continuing financial stability. One of the Directors she’s been an advocate for practical and logical solutions, guided by her ability to foresee short- and long-term consequences of our decisions. She’ll have an outstanding Executive Committee to consult with and a strong Board to help her implement her goals. Laurie is an effective and respected leader, and she’ll have a very successful presidency.

We’ve accomplished much together the past two years. We’ve hired three rabbis and a Gan Director, and extended the contract of our Director of Education. Hundreds of our members are involved in Hesed work and social justice activities, mirror images of the internal and external ways we strive to improve people’s lives. We’ve raised more money than ever through Adas Fund appeals, increased our endowment, made our mikvah accessible, approved a “Code of Conduct for Lay Leadership with Respect to Harassment,” streamlined our operations, balanced our budgets, grown our membership, and revised our bylaws last year. And more. I’m grateful for your help in making all this possible. Thank you for trusting me to lead Adas Israel the past two years.

But we do, broadly speaking, live in a best worst time right now. In America, and especially at Adas, we are thriving by every reasonable measure. It’s not just that our congregation is rapidly growing in numbers, but more important, it is experiencing a cross-generational increase in participation. We are truly living our values, passionately. We remain deeply committed to serious learning (immutud Torah), soulful prayer (tefillah), limitless acts of loving-kindness for each other (hesed), and pursuit of justice beyond our walls (izzedek). Moreover, we now also look forward to our first congregation-wide journey to Israel in many, many years.

At the same time, the last few years—especially the last eight months—remind us that any success must be measured against the overall safety and capacity to live fully Jewish in this country. As recent numbers on anti-Semitism from the ADL attest, we have much about which to be concerned, even as we continue to thrive in America. Both are true. Which leads me to the following piece of Torah, found in the famous book of Jewish Law, the Shulchan Arukh (Orakh Hayyim 94), regarding prayer:

עָלָיו לֹא יַהֲנוֹן עָלָיו דָּוִדְוֵא מַה יֵזֵרֵךְ בָּלוּז יָבָא
מִום תַּקְרֵיבוּ לְהָא יֵשׁ וּלְיָדוּל מַגְדִּיל לְהָא
וְיָא בְּרֵפה לָא יַהֲנוֹן עָלָיו דָּוִדְוֵא מַה יֵזֵרֵךְ בָּלוּז יָבָא
מִום תַּקְרֵיבוּ לְהָא יֵשׁ וּלְיָדוּל מַגְדִּיל לְהָא

The one who is surrounded by dangerous people, from all sides, and fears that if she begins to pray her Amidah she will be interrupted or have her belongings taken—sit down right there and pray. (Though standing for the Amidah is optimal, in this case, her mind would not be settled enough to pray [if standing]).

Though not directly parallel, the imagery is striking, isn’t it? Danger from this side and that, with a palpable fear that if she begins to pray her Amidah, she will be interrupted or have her belongings taken. And the fear is that she might be interrupted or have her belongings taken. And the fear is that she might be interrupted or have her belongings taken. And the fear is that she might be interrupted or have her belongings taken.

We should be thanking them every time we see them.

“IT was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

But there’s also wisdom in the response to this situation, in both what is, and isn’t, said. The law isn’t—hide and don’t pray. There is no suggestion that in this situation the need/desire to commune with God is set aside, identities hidden. To be on a Jewish journey is to assess and adapt from within our Jewishness. This is where the directive shifts from the ideal to the real. In other words, to expect an ideal prayer environment in less than ideal times is unreasonable. So we stay on course, but shift our technique. Pray, but sitting in place.

Though obviously different in some key ways from what the Jewish community and too many other American minorities are experiencing right now, the overall feeling of both success and precariousness is tangibly present. The space of our prayer, of our gathering, looks and feels different. Heightened security is necessary, sadly, because we need to be safe, to feel safe, and, with your help, we will not relent in our efforts to ensure this remains the case.

But also, the primary challenge of now—especially for progressive Jewish communities that have [re]captured the deep, grounded, open, sophisticated, textured, and moving spirit that has brought thousands back is: To not relent on those ideals, at all, while still taking our security very seriously.

So we’ll continue to journey together, surrounded or not. We’ll pray together, love expansively together, learn together, and serve together. It may not look or feel precisely the same as it always has; we may stand when we’ve previously been sitting, or vice versa, but our prayers will be just as potent. And our service to God, Torah, Israel, and each other, as critical as ever.

From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT

Clergy Corner

RABI AARON ALEXANDER

Generally, the use of this quote from A Tale of Two Cities strikes me as hyperbolic. Though we do sometimes witness the best and worst of humanity, to be in either the best or the worst—and actually recognize it as such—lands as clichéd. Life is significantly more complicated than this, and hindsight almost always redirects our memory to something more measured.
Shavuot @ Adas Israel
SATURDAY NIGHT, JUNE 8 – MONDAY, JUNE 10
ADASISRAEL.ORG/SHAVUOT

You stood at the foot of the mountain. Your grandparents and great-grandparents before them. The souls of all Jews, from all times, came together to hear the resounding proclamation of the Ten Commandments! This year at Adas we come together again, like our ancestors before us, to learn, give, commit, count down, have faith, and eat.

**Torah-Slam & Break-Out Shavuot Learning Sessions**, Erev Shavuot, Saturday, June 8, Beginning at 7:30pm
Join our all-star clergy team: Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander, Kinsky, Solomon, & Yolkut for a Torah-Slam like you’ve never experienced! Each Rabbi will present a short, thought-provoking interpretation based on this year’s theme, inspired by the Book of Ruth: “For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” (Ruth, 1:16). Followed by one-on-one and group Break-Out Text-Learning Sessions.

**“The Late Lounge” A Shavuot Late Night Experience at Adas**, Erev Shavuot, Saturday, June 8 @ 9:30pm
Spend the late hours of Erev Shavuot (Saturday, June 8) with the moon, the stars and the Torah. Journey to our re-imagined desert oasis (in the transformed Kay Hall), enjoy freshly roasted coffee, mint tea and sweets from around the world, drink Shavuot Shooters and coffee-themed cocktails; lounge under our tents to the tune of smooth desert beats, niggunim, and soulful words of Torah.

**Shavuot Nature Hike for Families with Young Children**, Sunday, June 9 @ 11:00am
Each year, on the holiday of the Shavuot, the Jewish calendar gives us the opportunity to ritualize and reenact the sacred obligation of receiving the Torah. Prepare to reimagine Mount Sinai, together with other Families with Young Children, on a spiritual nature hike (weather permitting) on the first day of Shavuot. The hike will be small child friendly, but not stroller friendly. All are invited to join the family and friends as we plot a course for the next year of Jewish communal life in our community. This concept is not new; Moses was once the sole judge in the desert, but his father-in-law advised him to delegate that work broadly. As our ancestors before us, to learn, give, commit, count down, have faith, and eat.

**FULL SHAVUOT 2019 SCHEDULE**

**Erev Shavuot, Saturday, June 8**
7:30 pm • 5:5 Rabbis, 5 Journeys, 5 Dreams—Join Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander, Kinsky, Solomon, and Yolkut as each presents a short, thought-provoking interpretation of our theme: A Torah-Slam like you’ve never experienced!
9:00 pm • Special Yom Tov Maariv led by Cantor Arianne Brown
9:15 pm • Eishkug & Mozi
9:30 pm • Break-Out Text-Learning Sessions (TBD—We’ll offer two great options for more study, including one specifically designed for teens.)
9:30 pm • Late Lounge” Experience at Kay Hall opens (Food!)
10:30 pm • Something New—Join Rabbis Alexander and Holtzblatt on the patio for a Communal Moment of (Spontaneous) Blessings – we need them!

**Shavuot Day 1, Sunday, June 9**
9:15 am • Combined Charles E. Smith Sanctuary & Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Service
11:00 am • Shavuot Nature Hike for Families with Young Children
11:00 am • Mincha/Maariv/Rabbalot Chag

**Shavuot Day 2, Monday, June 10**
9:15 am • All invited to the service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary
11:00 am • V’ziker
1:00 pm • Mincha

*For an updated schedule please go to adasisrael.org/shavuot

**PLEASE JOIN US**
Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday Eve, June 19
Beginning at 6:15 pm

Featuring Remarks from Annual Meeting Special Guest:
Arnold M. Eisen, Ph.D.
Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York

**ANNUAL MEETING BEGINS AT 6:15PM IN KAY HALL**
Dinner will be served, if you plan to partake, please register at adasisrael.org/annualmeeting or call us at 202-362-4433

Celebrating This Year’s Yad Hakavod Honoree, Rae Grad, on Behalf of Hesed
We are thrilled to honor Rae Grad as this year’s Yad Hakavod recipient, on behalf of Hesed. Rae has been instrumental in helping Hesed to become an integral part of the Adas culture and serves as chair of the Hesed Committee, which includes the Member Connector, Bereavement, and Hesed committees. She continues to work tirelessly to provide loving kindness to the entire Adas community (and beyond) and to ensure that everyone has found a home here at Adas.

The annual meeting is your chance to participate in the growth, health, and vibrancy of your synagogue and your community. Join family and friends as we plot a course for the next year of Jewish communal life in our community. This concept is not new; Moses was once the sole judge in the desert, but his father-in-law advised him to delegate that work broadly. We learn from Moses’s delegation, that a community ought to be empowered to control its destiny and to govern itself. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard, and to join us as we usher our community forward into a renewed age of warmth, welcoming, and growth.

**Thanking Our Daily Minyan Community**
Each morning and evening Adas Israel members perform the mitzvah of assembling a minyan for prayer. Thanks to a wonderful cadre of leaders and regulars, we are able to provide comfort to mourners, hospitality to guests, and a community of prayer and study.

On the second day of Shavuot, Monday, June 10, at our festival service we will honor our Daily Minyan Communities with an aliyah to the Torah. If you have participated in minyan this year, we hope you will join your fellow congregants on the bima so that we can thank you for your devotion to this mitzvah.
Believe it or not, the High Holy Days are right around the corner. Packets with High Holy Day information will arrive in your homes soon!

As usual, tickets for all members of your household for services in the Kay Hall, Gewirz Beit Am, or Cohen Hall (Family Service) will be sent automatically, roughly 10 days before the holidays. If you are a dedicated seat holder in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, you will need to request the number of your seats that you intend to use for the coming holidays (two seats are included in membership; additional seats will be charged to your account). Members will also be able to reserve non-dedicated seats (with limited availability) in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. You can request these seats on the seat request forms included in the High Holy Day booklet.

Thank you. We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you this coming fall.

High Holy Days 5780


Full High Holy Day Schedule & Information Now Available Online at adasisrael.org/highholydays

Why Give To The Adas Fund Campaign?

The Adas Fund is the Congregation’s only annual campaign and is critical if we are to operate in the way you have come to count on and deserve. We seek 100% participation, at any level of giving. This year’s campaign is inspired by the work of our Social Action Committee, and supports all of our activities at Adas. The Committee is made up of teams focused on the pressing issues facing us today:

- Poverty / Homelessness / Housing Team
- Climate Action Team
- Gun Violence Prevention Team
- Racial Justice Working Group
- Refugee Response Team

Visit adasisrael.org/socialaction to learn more about this incredible work. Please join them as we demonstrate our gratitude for the many personal and family journeys Adas Israel’s members, clergy, and staff inspire. Please do give something today, and make everything possible.

Donate online at AdasIsrael.org/AdasFund
Proposed Amendments to Adas Israel Bylaws

Updates to Membership Criteria

For community vote at Annual Meeting June 19th beginning at 6:15pm

Pursuant to our bylaws, we are publishing in advance proposed changes to that governing document. The Board of Directors approved these changes at its April 10th meeting, and the membership will vote on them at the June 19th Annual Meeting. Members were notified of the proposed amendments to the Adas Israel Bylaws beginning on April 30th through various Adas communications channels, and the information has been re-communicated every week thereafter. Read below to review the origin of our proposal, our current practices, a chronology of the process, the proposed bylaws amendment and a FAQ sheet.

Special thanks must go to the Task Force convened to review this issue. Members are Ian Wallace, Nancy Weiss, Blake Yedwab, Michelle Buergen (Vice President for Membership), and Laurie Aladjem (President-Elect and Chair of the Task Force).

DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

We held three meetings for the Congregation to discuss this proposal in May. If you were unable to attend one of these and would like to discuss this proposal with Rabbi Alexander or Rabbi Holtzblatt, please reach out to either of them.

ORIGIN OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

In March 2016, United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism ("USCJ," the umbrella organization for Conservative congregations) created the "USCJ Commission on Community and Covenant in the Twenty-First Century." This is a long way of saying that the committee was charged with studying how Conservative congregations can be more welcoming to two-faith families and making recommendations to USCJ’s Board of Directors. Adas Israel member Stephen Lachter was a member of this Commission.

This was a new approach. While various congregations, including our own, had been implementing practices in this regard, the organization as a whole had not focused on the changing reality within the Jewish world, including Conservative Judaism, in this way. This recommendation focused on the requirements for membership in a Conservative synagogue, and mirrors USCJ’s recent shift to imposing fewer rules on its member congregations, giving them more latitude in determining their own governing policies.

The Commission recommended that each kehillah shift to imposing fewer rules on its member congregations, giving them more latitude in determining their own governing policies. The Board of Directors approved a change in membership categories to “household memberships,” and since then we’ve have one-adult households for purposes of membership.

ADAS ISRAEL’S PRACTICES

Many Conservative congregations have always had “individual memberships” and “family memberships.” This means that in the case of two-faith families, Jewish partners have been “individual members” and non-Jewish partners have not been members. In 1997, our membership approved a change in membership categories to “household membership,” and since then we’ve have one-adult households as members and two-adult households as members. In practice, we make no distinction between members of interfaith families for purposes of membership.

This change to “household memberships” has had no effect on our ritual practices. Only Jewish people can have Torah and Practice. (See the Membership Criteria Task Force Proposal below for the language of Article XII.)

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA TASK FORCE PROPOSAL PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON APRIL 10, 2019

VERSION A: Proposed Amendments to By-laws: all sections of by-laws that could be impacted by this amendment appear below, with proposed changes noted in red.

2.1 PROPOSED LANGUAGE:
Any individual of the Jewish faith and of good moral character shall be eligible for membership in the Congregation.

2.2 CURRENT LANGUAGE:
Any individual not less than 21 years of age who is of the Jewish faith; or any individual who is married to, or in a committed relationship with someone who is of the Jewish faith, or any person who is raising Jewish children* shall be eligible for membership, provided that such person is of good moral character.

*The original proposal included “or is committed to raising Jewish children.” The Board voted 24 to 12 to eliminate this language, which seemed overly broad to the majority of the Board.

2.2 PROPOSED LANGUAGE:
Membership shall include: the right to vote; the right to hold office; and the right to burial in the historic Adas Israel Cemetery (as available).

Under the guidance of our Senior Rabbis Lauren Holtzblatt and Aaron Alexander, our Board of Directors has been studying this topic for the past two years. I’ve referred to it in my addresses at the last two Annual Meetings and in my monthly Chronicle column.

Earlier this year I appointed a Task Force to make recommendations to our Board of Directors for our going forward. The Task Force quickly determined that there are two parts to the question of membership criteria at Adas Israel. One concerns who is eligible for membership, and bringing our bylaws into compliance with our long-standing practice. The second is more complicated and concerns governance. The Task Force proposed a new definition of who can be a member of our community (part one), and specified that Trustees and President (and thus President-Elect) must be Jewish (part two).

Our Board discussed in some detail at its March meeting the criteria for membership as well as defining who can be a board member, a member of the Ritual Committee, a trustee, an officer, and President. Between the March Board meeting and the April meeting, Board members were asked to identify any other issues they wanted to discuss at the April meeting, at which the Board would vote. None were submitted. I held a briefing for our valued Life Members (including Past Presidents) and Trustees on March 31st. At this meeting as well as at our Board meetings there were a number of questions about potential changes to our ritual practices. Article XII of our bylaws clearly states that all Jewish practices conform to the standards of the Rabbinical Assembly, Conservative, and the Committee on Jewish Law and Practice. (See the Membership Criteria Task Force Proposal below for the language of Article XII.)

The question of whether all members of the Ritual Committee must be Jewish was rejected by the Board, as was the question of whether all officers must be Jewish. Choosing to make our bylaws as inclusive as possible, and by a vote of 28 to 7, the Board approved the adoption of the Task Force with only one change to the proposed membership criteria (which change is explained with the actual motion of the Task Force, found on the next page). These proposed changes to the by-laws will be discussed and voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 19th.

May 2019 8

June 2019 9
4.2 CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Eligibility. Any member of the Congregation in good standing who has served on a committee or task force of the Congregation shall be eligible to hold office under this Article.

4.2 PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Eligibility. Any member of the Congregation in good standing who has served on a committee or task force of the Congregation shall be eligible to hold office under this Article, with the exception of President-Elect and President, who shall be Jewish.

VI. TRUSTEES

6.6 CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Any member in good standing shall be eligible to serve as a Trustee; provided, however, that he/she shall not be an office holder (other than honorary) in any other Congregation in the greater metropolitan Washington area.

6.6 PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Any Jewish member in good standing shall be eligible to serve as a Trustee; provided, however, that he/she shall not be an office holder (other than honorary) in any other Congregation in the greater metropolitan Washington area.

XII. ADAS ISRAEL HISTORIC CEMETERY

(No change required. Included here because this right of membership is mentioned in Article 2.2.)

13.1 CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Adas Israel Historic Cemetery, located at 1400 Alabama Avenue, SE; Washington, DC. No individual shall hold title to any cemetery property; the same shall never be encumbered by debt or lien of any kind whatsoever, but the same shall always remain the property of the Congregation absolutely. Burial in the Congregational cemetery shall be restricted to individuals of the Jewish faith (emphasis added) and shall be in conformity with practices of Conservative Judaism. Cemetery privileges for members shall be regulated by rules and regulations established by the Board of Directors.

XIII. RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

(This existing article included to show that matters pertaining to ritual practice will not change be affected by the approval of the proposed membership criteria amendment.)

12.1 Customs, ceremonies, and practices constituting the established ritual of the Congregation in the conduct of its services of every nature shall be in conformity with the precedents and principles of Conservative Judaism.

12.2 Prayer books to be used by the Congregation on all occasions shall be those published or approved by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly of America or other prayer books acceptable within the Conservative Movement.

12.3 Matters of ritual shall be determined by the Ritual Committee, in collaboration with the Rabbi. And, if deemed necessary, in consultation with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

12.4 Questions of interpretation as to any religious law or custom, proposed or established, shall be submitted to the Rabbinical Assembly’s Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, and the decision of the Committee shall serve as a guide for the Congregation.

LEADERSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

All committee members are appointed by the president, per our bylaws. People can either ask to be appointed to a particular committee or be asked to join a committee. With regard to the Ritual Committee, a certain level of knowledge – of general ritual practice in the Conservative movement as well as what has become the congregational minhag – is required to be considered for membership. In addition, anyone being considered for membership on this committee is vetted by both senior rabbis who work with the Ritual Committee, currently Rabbis Lauren Holtzblatt & Aaron Alexander.

IV. OFFICERS

10.1 CURRENT LANGUAGE:

The Chronicle

ANNUAL MEETING

Regarding Officers: As you know, the president appoints a Nominating Committee each year that proposes officers and board members, and this slate is voted on at the Annual Meeting. There is also a petition process through which someone can be nominated for one of these positions, and this process is explained each year when we present the report of the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committees make their recommendations based on commitment to the synagogue; members’ participation and synagogue affairs, such as service on committees.

BY-LAWS UPDATE FAQS

1) Why is this change being proposed? Why is it important?

Families who do not feel welcome by their community – a sentiment expressed by many interfaith families about Conservative synagogues – are less likely to provide Jewish education and other experiences that are critical for Jewish continuity. We want to help those families who wish to practice Judaism in a traditional environment to make the choice to join our synagogue. Since Adas Israel already welcomes interfaith couples, we want to bring our bylaws into conformity with our practice.

2. What prompted this update now?

In March, 2017, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) changed its constitution to allow each synagogue to define its own membership criteria. Previous to that change, USCJ required that all members of affiliated synagogues be of the Jewish faith. Even before that standard change, many Conservative synagogues, including ours, were stretching their membership policies to be more welcoming of interfaith families. The number of congregations reporting or anticipating policy change has increased dramatically in the past year.

3) What will change if the proposed amendment is adopted by our congregation?

Since we have “household memberships” rather than “individual memberships,” we already have interfaith families as members. The amendment will allow a single parent who is not of the Jewish faith, but who is raising Jewish children – as might happen in the case of death or divorce – to be a member of our community. In addition, non-Jewish members will now have the right to vote.

5) Can a child with a Jewish father and a mother who is of another religion enroll in Adas Israel’s Gan and Religious School?

Yes. For the child described here to become Jewish, the standards of the Conservative movement require that he or she be immersed in a kosher mikvah (and ritual circumcision). Our rabbis work with families to construct personalized rituals to add joy and meaning to the mikvah experience.

6) Can a person who is not of the Jewish faith become President of the Congregation? No. Per the proposed amendment persons not of the Jewish faith cannot become President-Elect, President, or a Trustee of the congregation.

7) Can people not of the Jewish faith be on committees? The President of the Congregation appoints the members of the committees, and all members are welcome to participate and contribute to committee discussions. While committees deliberate on matters of import to the congregation, recommendations regarding synagogue policy must be approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Are persons not of the Jewish faith permitted burial in Adas Israel’s cemeteries? This is not permitted in the Adas Israel Historic Cemetery. Judae Memorial Gardens and Garden of Remembrance each have other sections within the cemetery grounds where individuals who are not Jewish may be buried.

9) Will members who are not of the Jewish faith be able to participate in all ritual aspects of the synagogue? Individuals who are not of the Jewish faith, whether members or not, may participate in non-ritual roles during the service. These include leading the Prayer for Our Country, opening and closing the ark and addressing the congregation during the service. Parents of babies who are being named or children becoming bar or bat mitzvah are invited to accompany their spouses, though only the Jewish parent recites the Torah blessings. None of this represents a change in current Adas practice.

10) What is Adas Israel’s policy regarding intermarriage? Following the Standard of Rabbinic Practice of the Conservative movement, Adas Israel Rabbis can only officiate at marriages between two people of the Jewish faith. Intermarriages are not performed at Adas Israel.
Musical Moments at Adas

Upcoming Event

Nefesh Mountain Shabbat  Jewish Bluegrass

Shabbat, June 21–22
Nefesh Mountain is the place where Bluegrass and Old-Time music meet Jewish heritage and tradition. Join us June 21–22 as these rising stars infuse our Shabbat with their unique music. See below for the full schedule!

SHABBAT WEEKEND SCHEDULE
Friday June 21
5:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat service for Young Families (geared toward age 0–5)
6:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv service
7:45 pm: Community Shabbat Dinner; register online at adasisrael.org/musicalmoments

Saturday June 22
9:30 am: Shabbat morning service with Nefesh Mountain
1:00 pm: Discussion & Demonstration—Spirituality through Bluegrass and Old-Time Music
8:00 pm: Nefesh Mountain soulful musical experience during the last hours of Shabbat, and Bluegrass Havdalah (Concert is free with a suggested advance donation of $18. Money will not be collected on Shabbat.) Register online at adasisrael.org/musicalmoments.

DC Klezmer Workshop

DC Klezmer Workshop Dance Party
Sunday June 23 @ 1:00–4:00pm
Come learn Yiddish dance with internationally acclaimed dance leader Steve Weintraub. Come join the DC Klezmer Workshop Orchestra and learn to play for dancing with trumpeter Howard Ungar and members of Mrs. Toretsky’s Nightmare.

For more information, contact Howard Ungar, howard_ungar@gmail.com. Suggested donation: $20, $5 for students and seniors.

ADAS (in)ISRAEL
An Unforgettable Adas Israel Congregational Journey to Israel
SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER 2020

THE LAND
ERETZ YISRAEL
THE STATE
MEDINAT YISRAEL
THE PEOPLE
AM YISRAEL
EACH OTHER
ADAS ISRAEL

We’re not just going to Israel, we’re bringing Adas to Israel. Build relationships & memories to cherish for all time.

Bask in the rich, energetic culture of modern-day Israel. Dive into unique areas of focus available only to Adas participants.

Trips details forthcoming (including final trip dates, full itineraries, financial information, support for those requiring accessibility accommodations, etc.). Please allow this to serve as an important Save the Date.

All the information you need, plus registration instructions, will be shared soon.
**JMCW Summer Calendar**

Our weekly JMCW meditation and yoga classes offer a home to those who wish to explore embodied spirituality. The yoga program offers an array of practices that awaken and stimulate the senses through full mind/body exploration. Classes often draw on Mussar, Kabbalah, and the wisdom of Jewish thinkers. Meditation sits offer participants an opportunity to come together for guided teachings, a wide variety of meditation techniques, and silent community sits. PLEASE NOTE: Our Yoga and Meditation classes will be on summer break until September. Please watch for upcoming programming dates via the JMCW newsletter and JMCW web page.

**JCMW Meditation & Yoga**

**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.

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

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

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**JMCW Recommends . . .**

*Journey through the Wilderness: A Mindfulness Approach to the Ancient Jewish Practice of Counting the Omer* by Rabbi Yael Levy

During the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, we have the Jewish practice of Counting the Omer. In this illustrated short volume, Rabbi Yael Levy provides a mindful approach to this ancient tradition. She combines the wisdom from Psalms and Jewish mysticism with reflections on what it means to experience and count each day. The blessings for Counting the Omer are included in both Hebrew and English.

*Me, Myself & God: A Theology of Mindfulness* by Rabbi Jeff Roth

This accessible volume combines traditional Torah study with the wisdom of mindfulness practice. Rabbi Jeff Roth is the founder and Director of The Awakened Heart Project for Contemplative Judaism and a leading voice of Jewish Mindfulness.

The Adas Israel library has many books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

**JMCW @ ADAS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Return Again to Shabbat** with Rabbi Holtzblatt & Alexander & The Return Again Band

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 @ 6:30 PM

This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! Join us for a reflective journey into the power of Shabbat. The evening features seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song. A 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!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The summer schedule will vary. Please watch for updates through e-mails and the JMCW web site.

**JMCW @ ADAS**

**Shavuot @ Adas Israel**

SATURDAY NIGHT, JUNE 8–MONDAY, JUNE 10

Be sure to see the Adas Israel Shavuot schedule. There are myriad opportunities to gather, learn, pray, and experience the gift of receiving. Details are in this Chronicle (see page TK) and at www.adasisrael.org/shavuot.

**RABBI YAEL LEVY**

The month of Sivan is a time of receiving that Rabbi Jill Hammer describes as, “filled with the perfume of the Torah.” The Israelites are “in the wilderness” and need to be there to prepare for the giving of the Torah on Shavuot. In nature, Sivan is also a time of first harvests. We enjoy nature’s vitality and prepare for its fruit by opening and accepting, letting go of anything that limits and prevents us from being a vessel to receive. We also reflect on the commandment to act in the service of creation. Midrash compares the Israelites with an apple tree, which bears fruit before leaves. As such, tradition teaches that we accepted the Torah before fully understanding how difficult living righteously might be. JMCW programming, services, and special events explore the practice of open-heartedness, receiving, and spiritual fulfillment.

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**RABBI YAEL LEVY**

On Shavuot, we strive to say, “Hineni, Here I am, I am open, I am listening, And I am willing to receive guidance and take on mitzvot—practices, acts of connection and love—that will help me live with honesty and compassion.” After Shavuot, when we come down from the mountain and return to our lives, we are urged to continue these practices to help us stay mindful and awake, to help us keep returning to awareness and presence, to keep the fires burning.

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**JMCW at Adas Israel**

**The Chronicle**

**June 2019**

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Last year, Pam Ehrenberg got us started on a creative list of ways to engage and learn Jewishly over the summer beyond a "homework packet" and separate from a Jewish camp experience. Here is the list that we have accumulated since then. Do you have other suggestions? Let us know; we’d love to hear from you!

- Attend a Shabbat service at Adas Israel (or a Shabbat service in another location if you’re traveling for vacation).
- Invite a guest over for Shabbat dinner (or any meal).
- Read a Jewish book together (or let your child read to you).
- Do something kind for a family member (play a game with your siblings or help with chores).
- Do something kind for a friend or neighbor (send a get-well-soon card to a friend who isn’t feeling well, or volunteer to wash a neighbor’s car).

The Education Team wishes you a fun summer full of adventure. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

**Register for Next Year by July 1 2019**

Visit adasisrael.org/rsregistration to enroll in Religious School 2019/2020 today!

Our Religious School program seeks to provide an education designed to inspire our students to lead their lives as identified, committed Jews and ethical human beings. Our purpose is to instill Jewish values and a sense of pride in our students for their Jewish heritage, customs, language, and traditions by creating a learning environment that is warm, challenging, and engaging. Please note that a 50% tuition deposit is due by July 1, 2019.

For our returning families, please note that you will need to be logged into your Adas Israel account in order to view and interact with personalized accounts, profiles, billing information, and school registrations. To log in, please click on the gray box at the top-right corner of the website. If you are logged in to your account, the top-right of the website will display "welcome," with your name! To access the Religious School registration under "my account," scroll down to School Enrollments, and select "Start School Enrollment."

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**SWEET SUMMERTIME IN THE GAN**

Summertime brings an opportunity to take a deep breath, and then exhale, to set rhythms anew, and have daily rituals shift. Summer is a reminder that all things in the natural world reach peak bloom and bask in the warmth of the sun. We are filled with energy as the outdoors becomes our playground.

Here at the Gan, the summer allows for a palpable shift. Instead of children playing in the Gan space because of rain and snow, the children start each morning on the Adas Plaza engaged in water play. Children bring bikes and scooters to school and enjoy taking a ride with their classmates. Flowers and vegetables are grown, and all the juicy summer fruit is a regular part of snack time.

Summer in the Gan also provides an opportunity for teachers and administrators to prepare, envision, and reset for the coming school year. To take stock of what is on hand, and ensure that intentional groundwork is laid for the coming school year. Summer allows for rejuvenation and joy for all.

A teaching from Song of Songs 2:11-13, truly illustrates it best: “For now the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The blossoms have appeared in the land. The time of the singing has come; the song of the turtledove is heard in our land. The green figs form on the fig tree, the blossoming vines give off fragrance.”

We wish a summer filled with song, blossoms, and sunshine for everyone in the Gan community!

—Darci Lewis, Assistant Director & Curriculum Specialist, Gan HaYeled
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 Psalms/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.

Haravah 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 haravah@adasisrael.org.

Yesh 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. 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.

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).
ONGOING PROGRAMS

Take-A-Walk!
Usually the second Monday of the month; times and locations vary
NEXT UP: SUNDAY, JUNE 2, AT 11:30 AM
REGISTER AT ADASISRAEL.ORG/SISTERHOOD.

Join us Sunday, June 2, for a tour of the special azalea bonsai exhibit at the Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum. We will meet at Union Market at 11:30 for lunch and then carpool to the arboretum. Take a Walk!, usually on the second Monday of the month, explores different Washington neighborhoods on foot. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, AT 11:00 AM IN FUNGER HALL
Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood at a special time – 11:00 am rather than 10:00 am – on Tuesday, June 11, in Funger Hall. Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt will lead the text study session. Weekday Torah with Sisterhood is an engaging approach to traditional Hebrew text study that offers participants the opportunity to study and discuss challenging texts and ideas. This class is open to the entire Adas Israel community. Classes are monthly, except in the summer, and usually meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. Please contact MarilynCCooper70@Gmail.com with questions.

Sisterhood Sewing, Knitting & Craft Circle
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30–9:00 PM, YOUTH LOUNGE
Our knitters provide hats and scarves that, through the DCJCC, are donated to emergency centers in Washington DC, make baby hats to welcome the newest members to Adas; and knit or crochet five-inch squares that will be joined together to make afghans. We are asking members to donate leftover wool for these projects. Members are welcome to continue their ongoing knitting, sewing, crocheting, and craft projects and to propose new ones. Whether you would like to use donated wool to work on one of our established projects, learn a new skill, or just drop in and visit, please contact Lesley Frost, lesleyfrost@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Closing Event:
You've Got the Look! Summer Style, Fun, and Friendship
SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 11:00 AM, GEWIRZ BEIT AM
REGISTER ONLINE AT ADASISRAEL.ORG/SISTERHOOD.
Please join us for Sisterhood's Closing Event on Sunday, June 23, at 11:00 am in the Gewirz Beit Am! You've Got the Look! Summer Style, Fun and Friendship. Sisterhood members will take center stage as they model seasonal looks presented by Lord & Taylor. Chevy Chase. The program will also include a delicious lunch, L&T coupons, and makeup tips. Tickets are $15 each.

Sisterhood in Your Community
NEXT UP: SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 3:00-5:00 PM, BETHESDA
Sisterhood continues to offer the very popular “Sisterhood in Your Community” get-togethers on select Sundays until 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, to welcome back previous members, and to have fun. We’d like to thank our generous hosts, Susan Barocas, Sarah Brooks, Marcia Feuerstein, Marian Fox, Barbara Friedell, Arlette Jassel, Myra Promisel, Rhoda Ritzenberg, and Susan Winberg! More than 70 women have attended nearly a dozen Sisterhood get-togethers since December. These gatherings took place across the “DMV,” in neighborhoods in DC, Maryland, and—for the first time this year—Northern Virginia. It’s been a joy to get to know one another! For the last get-together before the summer break, Anat Bar-Cohen will host a brunch in Bethesda on Sunday, June 2, 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

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 checks, payable to Torah Fund, to Betty Adler, 6151 Shady Oak Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817. You can also reach Betty Adler at 340-999-2945 or bettyadler16@gmail.com.

It Takes More than a Village
You’ve heard the phrase, “It takes a village,” many, many times. And throughout the planning and execution of the Sisterhood Shabbat this year, we said it many, many times. But, it’s true. No successful undertaking like our weekend Shabbat could possibly take place without the help and participation of many generous people. We’d like to say thank you for helping to create a very special, meaningful weekend of prayer, learning, food and fun!

Sisterhood Shabbat Committee
June Kress, Chair, Marcia Feuerstein, Leah Hadad, Jill Jacob, Sabrina Sojourner, Joyce Stern, Julie Weisman, Kinney Zalesne

Alisa Kerame
Leah Charin
Ryna Cohen
Ryana Gaynor
Rikki Garger
Jennifer Gibson
Orma Goldwater
Julia Gordon
Shoshana Grove
Diana Hart
Estelle Jacobs
Arlette Jacobs
Louis Liss-Levinson
Betty Adar
Marilyn Cooper
Rachel Eltich
Suzey Klein
Susan Klein
Lisa Reine
Helen Klein
Susan Klein
Elaine Kremen
Roni Kivel
Gail Mattison
Nechama Masliansky
Ricki Gerger
Marilyn Cooper
Morris Rosenthal
Estelle Jacobs
Nancy Weiss
Marian Fox
Marcan Fox
Rabbi Avi Straussberg
Shoshana Grove
Carolyn Leiserman
Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith
Liliana Cappelino
Debra Joseph
Nancy Weiss
Marilyn Cooper
Ryna Cohen
Marcia Feuerstein
Helen Klein
Marilyn Cooper
Nancy Weiss
Donna Katz
Sisterhood Gift Shop
Sisterhood Gift Shop
Sisterhood gift shop

Gift Shop Summer Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday, 10:00 am-12 noon
We are also open by appointment by calling:
Jean Bernard, 301-654-8949
Diane Keller, 301-442-7625; or
Susan Winberg, 301-456-7706
Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.
202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com
DC PRIDE @ ADAS

Contemporary Judaism is at a historical moment, in which tolerance, and compassion for the individual, are becoming celebrated values in mainstream Jewish life. Be a part of that forward momentum and demonstrate Pride in our own community’s achievements in fostering these essential human values—equality, justice, and inclusion for all.

Join us for a weekend of dialogue, prayer, and action, as we participate in the DC Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8, along with GLOE (the Kurianer Program for GLBTQ Outreach & Engagement). Hundreds of marchers and dozens of Jewish organizations will come together to represent the love, equality, and values that the Jewish community stands for.

Center Faith’s 36th Annual Capital Pride Interfaith Service

Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Featuring Music - Seasons of Love, ensemble of the GMC-WDC
Featuring Speaker – Bishop Kwabena “Rainey” Cheeks, DD, Inner Light Ministries UCC-DC
Featuring Musician – John Kaboff, concert soloist and chamber musician

Adas DC Pride Week Schedule

Friday, June 7
6:00 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat
6:30 pm: Shir Delight Happy Hour
7:30 pm: Shir Delight Shabbat Services
8:00 pm: Shir Delight Dinner

Saturday, June 8
9:30 am: Shabbat Morning Services
5:00 pm: March in the DC Pride Parade; we will head over together with GLOE (exact meeting point TBD) to our designated parade waiting spot (exact location TBD)
9:00 pm: Celebrate Erev Shavuot at Adas

Tuesday, June 11
7:00 pm: Adas hosts the 36th Annual Capital Pride Interfaith Service coordinated by Center Faith, a program run by the DC Center for the LGBT Community.

If you would like to march in the Pride Parade or support any other part of this week, please contact Courtney Tisch at Courtney.Tisch@adasisrael.org.

SOCIAL ACTION

March 10 SAC Meeting

Twenty-five Adas Israel members, along with Rabbi Alexander and members of other faith-based institutions, joined the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) on its waterfront tour and follow-up discussion on Sunday, March 24. WIN has led these tours over the past month to educate its members about development plans along the Anacostia Waterfront; the Navy Yard; the Wharf; Reservation 13, which is also known as Hill East; the new DC General building, and RFK Stadium; and Poplar Point and Barry Farm.

We learned about the history of these areas and the neighborhoods and the push for affordable housing units and amenities for residents of the surrounding communities. We heard about the Navy Yard’s next expansion, which will make it DC’s largest urban waterfront development, and about broken promises regarding affordable housing and public housing commitments.

—Jamie Butler

CNHED Housing Advocacy Day

On Wednesday, April 24, several Adas members participated in Housing Advocacy Day, sponsored by the Coalition for Non-profit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED). After learning about key programs that address the critical need for affordable housing in the District, participants met with members of the DC Council (or their legislative representatives) to advocate for budget allocations to support these programs. Key programs are designed to provide funds to support the development and preservation of affordable housing for the District’s low-income residents, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.

—Wendy Kates

Sukkot in Spring

Another successful Sukkot in Spring is in the books! This year, 20+ Adas community members teamed up with Yachad to make a neighbor’s home in Ward 4 healthier—and the family a bit happier, as well. Our team of volunteers ripped out dirty, dusty carpet, which will be replaced with laminate flooring. We also painted a newly patched ceiling that had previously been water damaged.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help for your skills, your humor, and your commitment to our community. Special thanks to Claus, the family’s Chihuahua, who was our cheerleader all day long. We hope to see you next year!

—Lisa Kanef

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Gun Violence Prevention Team Update

The Gun Violence Prevention team partnered with the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) to provide assistance to three families who suffered the effects of gun violence. In February, Mark Timberlake from the ONSE team joined Don Kates on a visit with the Long family to deliver a Satchel gift card along with a Hesed-baked challah. The

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Hesed: Acts of Loving Kindness

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Summer is here, which gives us time to take a deep breath, slow down the engines, and reflect on all the amazing Hesed work that has happened this year. Hesed is a large umbrella under which many activities fall. Projects that involve the Hesed, the Bereavement, and the Member Connector committees all fall under the Hesed umbrella. Here’s a snapshot of what happened this year.

Hesed Calls: The phones are always ringing with Hesed callers placing calls each week to approximately 90 members of our congregation to wish them a Shabbat shalom. Phones also ring when Adas members are ill or have had surgery. We like to check in on them to see if there is anything we can do. Would you like to join the Hesed Calls Team?

Hesed Meals: If members need meals for a few days or a few weeks to help them through a tough time, Hesed delivers. Through the Meal Train link, or from picking our food from our Hesed freezer, Adas members who need a little extra sustenance can depend on the Hesed Meals Team. Would you like to join the Hesed Meals Team?

Hesed Bags: Nothing brings a smile to a new Adas member or an Adas family with a new baby like answering the door and receiving a beautiful Hesed gift bag stuffed with lots of goodies. We want new members and new babies to know how welcome they are to our congregation. Would you like to join our Hesed Bags team?

Hesed Visits: Hesed continues to provide visitors to those who benefit from long-term partnering or who need short-term help, such as shopping or picking up a prescription. Would you like to join the Hesed Visits Team?

Hesed Grief and Hesed End-of-Life Conversations: We tried something new this year to introduce a session on grief and a series of sessions on end-of-life conversations. These are not necessarily easy topics to discuss, but they are part of all of our lives. We will continue this dialogue in future years. Would you like to join the Hesed Grief and End-of-Life Conversations planning committee?

Bereavement Committee: The many activities of the Bereavement Committee continue to serve Adas members who need help and support in their time of loss. A relatively new activity brings together the Hesed and Bereavement committees and Sisterhood when arrangements are made to deliver a Hesed bag with candles and wine and a challah on a Shabbat very close to the loss. Would you like join the Bereavement Committee?

Hesed Cooking: YUM ... that sums up the experience of participating in the Hesed Cooking Team. This team makes scrumptious food that is placed in the Hesed freezer in the Kay kitchen for anyone to come and grab something nutritious and delicious. Hesed cooking is a great way to meet new people and have a lot of fun while doing an important mitzvah. Would you like to join the Hesed Cooking Team?

Hesed L’Dor V’Dor: Reaching out to our golden age Adas members is a new and gratifying Hesed priority. We are committed to ensuring that none of our precious members is lost to us as it becomes harder to come to the synagogue to participate. We call, we visit, sometimes the clergy make a house call, we care. Aging is an inevitable part of life, and we want all of our members to know we want to stay connected. Would you like to join the Hesed DVD team?

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Hesed L’Dor V’Dor: Reaching out to our golden age Adas members is a new and gratifying Hesed priority. We are committed to ensuring that none of our precious members is lost to us as it becomes harder to come to the synagogue to participate. We call, we visit, sometimes the clergy make a house call, we care. Aging is an inevitable part of life, and we want all of our members to know we want to stay connected. Would you like to join the Hesed DVD team?

Hesed Grief and End-of-Life Conversations: We tried something new this year to introduce a session on grief and a series of sessions on end-of-life conversations. These are not necessarily easy topics to discuss, but they are part of all of our lives. We will continue this dialogue in future years. Would you like to join the Hesed Grief and End-of-Life Conversations planning committee?

Bereavement Committee: The many activities of the Bereavement Committee continue to serve Adas members who need help and support in their time of loss. A relatively new activity brings together the Hesed and Bereavement committees and Sisterhood when arrangements are made to deliver a Hesed bag with candles and wine and a challah on a Shabbat very close to the loss. Would you like join the Bereavement Committee?

Choose Your Own Hesed Adventure: If there is something you would like to do to show acts of loving kindness to our Adas members, and we have not yet thought about it, please make a suggestion! We would love to know your ideas.

One important reminder: Hesed is about giving AND receiving. If you have not yet volunteered for any Hesed activities, we look forward to having you join as many as you like. Equally important, if you need Hesed help for any reason, please contact us. If you are sick, or having surgery, or your child is not feeling well, or you just need a little TLC, Hesed is here to help.

Both giving and receiving from Hesed is a mitzvah.

TO CONTACT HESED: Hesed@adasisrael.org
The Young Professionals Community at Adas Israel (YP@AI) introduces those between the ages of 21 and 35 to all that Adas has to offer. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who help plan and coordinate all of our events and have helped to inspire new programming for the larger Adas community. After a busy winter, here’s what we have planned for the spring:

• **Friday, June 7:** Join us for our final Shir Delight of the year!
• **Saturday, June 8:** Celebrate Shavuot with Adas Israel!
• **Sunday, June 30:** Our annual Jazz, Jews & Booze Barbecue!!! Great music, great friends, and great food and drink!
• **Friday, July 19:** YP Kabbalat Shabbat services at Meridian Hill Park, followed by picnic dinner.
• **Friday, August 2:** Shir Delight Lite (Happy Hour followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services)
• **Every Third Sunday:** Volunteer with your fellow YPs to serve meals at the Patricia Handy Place (part of N Street Village)

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

learn more & register online:
adasisrael.org/YP
When a longtime crime reporter decides to try his hand at fiction, he might just discover that he has a talent for writing murder mysteries. This is what happened to Harri Nykänen. After 20 years covering the criminal underworld as a journalist for Scandinavia's largest daily newspaper, Nykänen began penning murder mysteries, garnering Finnish literary awards and contracts for movie and TV adaptations. One Nykänen series follows a Jewish protagonist, a police detective named Ariel Kafka, who often winds up investigating murders affecting Helsinki's Jewish community. So far, three Kafka mysteries have been translated into English: *Nights of Awe*, *Behind God's Back*, and *Holy Ceremony*. These are fun summer reads, available in our library.

**JEWS IN FINLAND**

Nykänen’s Kafka mysteries unfold against the backdrop of Finland’s contemporary Jewish community, while touching on its history. According to local tradition, the first Jews to settle in Finland were discharged Russian Army soldiers. In 1858, the Russian Empire (which then included Finland) permitted soldiers who had served in Finland to remain there regardless of their religion. When Finland became independent in 1917, the Finnish Parliament awarded Jews full citizenship. Still, the Jewish population remained small, numbering approximately 2,500 people at the start of World War II. In 1948, Finnish Jewish volunteers fought in Israel’s War for Independence, with the highest per capita participation of any Diaspora Jewish community. In later years, many Finnish Jews made aliyah to Israel. In 2016, the World Jewish Congress estimated that there were 1,300–1,900 Jews in Finland, most live in Helsinki.

Not many realize that Finland was allied with Germany against the Soviet Union during World War II, resulting in the incongruous situation of Finnish Jewish soldiers fighting alongside Nazis on the Russian front. Nonetheless, Finland afforded its Jews full civil rights throughout the war and refused to deport them, although it did deport eight Austrian Jews who fled to Finland.

**THE KAFKA MYSTERIES**


Like many fictional detectives, Kafka is a 40-something bachelor, a melancholy man with a dry, understated wit. He has an older brother, Eli, a lawyer who is prominent in Helsinki’s Jewish community, and he had a younger sister, Hanna, who tragically died by suicide, traumatized after seeing her kibbutz friends die in a terrorist attack in Israel. When challenged about any potential bias in his assessment of Jewish or Arab suspects, Kafka staunchly asserts, "I never forget that I’m a Jew, but first and foremost, I’m a Finnish police officer.”

Not Jewish himself, Nykänen has said that a Jewish policeman friend, Dennis Pasterstein, inspired the character of Kafka. After researching the Finnish Jewish community and Judaism generally, Nykänen peppered Pasterstein with questions, even including: “If you are in the sauna with your friends, and your friends offer you barbecued sausage which perhaps contains pork—do you eat it to be polite?” Pasterstein’s response was not reported, but the puckish question underscores one of the attractions of Nykänen’s books. They let us glimpse not just Finnish Jews, but Finnish culture generally—who knew that a sauna experience in Finland encompassed social dining?

**Books & More**

**The Adas Israel Library Corner**

**Summer Chills: Murder Mysteries of Jewish Finland**

**BY ROBIN JACOBSON**

**LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR**

**SUMMER READING!**

**GET READY FOR THE NEXT ADAS BOOK CHAT:**

**Sunday, September 15, at 10:00 am**

Summer is a great time for catching up on good books. Try the Israeli novel, *Three Floors Up* by Eshkol Nevo. Set in an apartment building near Tel Aviv, *Three Floors Up* reveals the residents’ secrets, mistakes, parenting challenges, and more against the backdrop of the Israeli social protest movement. We’ll be discussing the book at the September Adas book chat.
I was born in Washington and went to kindergarten at Washington props kitchen (otherwise known as the blood kitchen) and all Any theater or musical experience we have, you are always bat class of arranged for that during an MLK dinner at Adas. I was in the third congregation, Turner Memorial AME at 6th and I. Together we attended Hebrew Literacy Levels 1 and 2 to teach Hebrew to the two ministers at our sister church, plus my husband David and I. I was ready to join when our six-year-old daughter, Anne, was ready to start Hebrew school in 1967. After my oldest daughter, Susan, and Rachel, arrived and started Sunday School (thanks to Jimmy’s Sweet Shop), I became active in the PTA. I became a pro at boiling hot dogs at the Carnival for Shabbat morning, I know we have a wonderful coatroom each and every year, and I took to Eastern Europe to the ghettos and camps in Poland, and I took my daughter to Israel in the summer of 2015 with his fellow 10th-grade peers. What has been some of your favorite family trips and vacations? I love to travel, and because my daughter Susan lived in Israel for seven years, I have been there nine times—two of which involved serving on an army base in the Sar El program, first near Kiryat Shmona and then in the Negev. I’ve rafted down the Colorado River inside the Grand Canyon with my husband and then repeated it with Rachel, camping outside for a week. I’ve hiked across the Continental Divide in Glacier Park in Montana with Anne; camped and hiked for 10 days in Hawaii; and have been to China, the Galapagos, Egypt, and Jordan with Avner Goren, an Israeli archaeologist. On a serious note, the trip David and I took to Eastern Europe to the ghettos and camps in Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, and the Czech Republic was, of course, the most memorable. The holiday of Shavuot falls in June this year, and part of the celebrations involve a lot of dairy. What would your ideal ice cream sundae look like if calories, fat, allergies, etc., weren’t factors?
BIRTHS

Ryan Spencer Snyder, son of David & Jenna Snyder, was born February 19.
Audrey Leya Hemmati, daughter of Amy Likoff & Dan Hemmati, was born April 12.
Jet Ezra, son of Maliya & David Tillery, was born April 17.
Asher Joel Bennett, son of Arielle Winnik and Jerrold Bennett, was born May 3.
We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.

B’NAI MITZVAH

Felix Geffen, June 1
Felix Geffen is a seventh grader at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School in DC. He celebrates his bar mitzvah with his parents, Daniel and Roxana Geffen; his brother Simon and sister Lucy; his grandparents, Barbara and Bill Geffen and Tony and Roxana Robinson, as well as other family and friends. Felix’s mitzvah project focuses on Her Initiative, the student feminist organization at his school. He is currently president of the club and has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member since it began.

Nils Socolovsky, June 1 (TEMP)
Nils is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School in Washington. He was born in Spain and began his Jewish education at Colegio Estrella Tolteca. He started attending the Gan at Adas Israel when he moved to America at the age of 3, and continued in the religious school. Nils runs track and cross country at Deal and plans to row crew next year. Nils, whose mitzvah project was volunteering at the Behrend-Adas Senior Fellowship program, celebrates his simcha with his parents, Petra and Jerome; his brother, Mendel; his grandmother Mara; and the rest of his extended global family.

Julian Jinich Crausman, June 8
Julian (Yaju), the son of Pasi and Daniel Jinich, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. He began his Jewish education at Gan Halleled, attended JFORD-NC (now known as the Milton School) through fifth grade and is now a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He celebrates his bar mitzvah with his four grandparents, his two older brothers Alan and Sami, and all his uncles and aunts and many cousins from Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Avital Morris, June 12
Avital, daughter of Miri Henny and Seth Morris, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She is a graduate of Gan Halleled and has studied at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten. For her mitzvah project, Avital will be helping the seniors during Adas’s lunch program. She shares her simcha with her brother Yonatan, family, and friends.

Samantha Villavicencio, June 22
Samantha, the daughter of Antonio Villavicencio and Lynne Baum, is in seventh grade at Pyle Middle School. She began her Jewish education at the Gan. She looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her younger sister Lila, her older siblings Flavio and Paula, grandparents Julie Baum, Bernard and Judy Baum, and Moisés and Rosa Villavicencio, and other family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Samantha will raise money for a nonprofit organization, New Life Animal Sanctuary, which provides a loving home for animals rescued from laboratories.

LIFE CYCLE

STELLA FOX, June 22 (in Jackson Hole, WY)
Stella, daughter of Rick Fox and Jen Danels, is a seventh grader at Stovee Middle School in Vermont. Stella began her Jewish education with the Jackson Hole Jewish Community, where she was born, continued with the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, and is preparing for her bat mitzvah with the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe. For her mitzvah project, she is committed to raising awareness around the importance of girls’ education by screening He Named Me Malala, with proceeds going to the Malala Foundation. Stella shares this simcha with her entire family, especially her siblings, Ruby and Ben, as well her growing network of friends across the country.

ELIZABETH HIMMELFARB, June 29
Elizabeth, daughter of Dan Himmelfarb and Carol Cardinale, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School and a student in the Ma’alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. She celebrates her bat mitzvah with her brothers, Samuel and Joseph, and other family and friends.

NATALIA ABIGAIL STUTMAN-SHAW, May 18 (Seth & G)
Natalia Abigail Stutman-Shaw, daughter of Russell Shaw and Rabbi Shira Stutman, is a sixth grader at Georgetown Day School and a third-generation member of Adas Israel. In her spare time, Natalia loves to bake, hang out with dogs, and spend summers at Camp Havaya. For her mitzvah project, Natalia is forgoing her mitzvah gifts and raising money for four worthy organizations. She shares this simcha with siblings Caleb and Natalia, grandparents Reesey and David Shaw, Suzanne Stutman and Jonathan Wilkenfeld, and other extended family and friends. We also remember with love Ma’ayan’s grandfather Ned (z”l), who would have been so proud.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:
Leolita Henson Mendelson
Harold Sadie
Dr. Allan Michael Weinstein
We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Roberta Katzman, mother of Laurie Kramer
Richard W. Robins, father of Amanda Alter
Dr. Irwin H. Slater, grandfather of Dan Byerly
Florence Snyder, mother of Mark Snyder
Harry Weinrauch, father of Susanne Weinrauch

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 who 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.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah
The Mikvah has now re-opened after its renovation. Please contact Mikvah@adasisrael.org for help with scheduling an appointment.

Adas Israel Community
June 2019
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

### Adas Fund
- By: Alvin Gutman.

### Anns Frank House Fund
- By: Howard Barshow, Dava Berkman, Carolyn Rogers, Steven & Jane Gilber, Stanley M. Salus, John Speaks.

### In Honor Of: David Berley’s birthday by Charles & Nancy Wolsfin. Martin Lewin on his very special birthday by Lori & Barry Wise.
- In Memory Of: Joe Berman by Jillian Berman. Aunt Mollie Lazorow by Sheryl Fahey & Ken Colling.

### SFB & In Memory Of: by Morris Ullman bar Bat By: MB Lewis Foundation. Congregational Kiddush Fund by Geraldine Pilzer.
- And Morris Bildman In Memory Of: Bernstein & Beverly Bernstein Adult Bat Mitzvah by: Judith Friedman & Joe Dor.

### Synagogue Contributions

#### SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

- With thanks for officiating at our Sabbath by Rabbi Alexander Fauber.
- Rabbi Avi Miller Lifelong Learning Fund In Memory Of: by Helen Cheminkoff by Larry Cheminkoff.

### Congregational Kiddush Fund
- By: Gerald & Katherine Sandler.

### Dayi Minyan Fund
- In Memory Of: Jay Yecies by Mark Yecies.
- In Honor Of: Ricki Gerger’s synagogue presidency by David & Heather Polonsky.

### Congregational Kiddush Fund
- By: Gerald & Katherine Sandler.

### Dayi Minyan Fund
- In Memory Of: Jay Yecies by Mark Yecies.
- In Honor Of: Ricki Gerger’s synagogue presidency by David & Heatho Polonsky.

### Congregational Kiddush Fund
- Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund In Memory Of: Bessie Rubenstein by Lee Rubenstein.
- Frances & Leonard Burk Social Action Endowment In Honor Of: All the great works Adas does for the community by Charlotte Lazz.

### Garden of the Righteous
- In Memory Of: Rhoda Albin by David Connick.

### Harry & Judy Linowes Youth Endowment Fund In Memory Of: Stanley Bobb by Judy & Harry Linowes.

### Hofstra Fund
- By: Aristotle & Joshua Wasserman.

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### Adas & Office Closings

#### Shavuot Day 1
- Sunday, June 9
- Schools/Offices Closed

#### Shavuot Day 2
- Monday, June 10
- Schools/Offices Closed
UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINE—
September: Thursday, July 25, at noon