

Adas Israel Congregation March/Adar I-Adar II

CHRONICLE

LOST AT HOME

A JOURNEY TO EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE



PURIM @ ADAS • 3.20-3.21

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



From the President

RICKI GERGER, ADAS PRESIDENT



"Why are you asking me that?"

This is absolutely the *only* acceptable response whenever a white person asks certain questions of someone in our building who doesn't look like the person asking the question. Questions like "Why are you here?" "Are you Jewish?" "When did you become Jewish?" "Why did you convert?" "Tell me about your journey to Judaism." The acceptable response, that is, unless you're gonna haul off and whack the person. Which is certainly what I would feel like doing.

I have never in my life been asked a question that challenges my identity as a Jew, or my right to be in a synagogue anywhere in the world. But any-color-but-white Jews are asked about that all the time, in just about any Jewish space. I used to think this didn't happen at Adas Israel. I was very, very wrong.

I don't think anyone asks these questions to be mean. Just because someone is, unknowingly to be sure, insensitive, rude, and thoughtless doesn't mean that person is mean. I believe these questions stem from curiosity when somebody sees someone walking or sitting or standing or praying or learning in our synagogue who looks different from the person. And then sometimes some people *assume* that person is an outsider, an "other," someone who doesn't belong here. And then the person's filter gets lost.

Think for just a moment about how any normal person might want to answer such questions. "Why are you asking me that? Is it because I'm Black?" "Why are you asking me that? Does my Latino accent make you think I'm not Jewish?" "Why are you asking me that? You don't believe Asians can be Jewish?" When questions are based on *assumptions*, the askers are wrong way more often than they're right. Look, not everyone who comes to our synagogue is white. We have some folks here who don't look like most of the people here. So?

Here are a couple of rules I'd like us all to follow: If you're white, only ask people here questions that you would ask white, Jewish people. And if you *must* assume something about somebody, how about assuming that person belongs here? Because—guess what—that person does.

And anyway, how can anyone possibly know who's Jewish and who isn't? "You don't have a nose like a Jew!" a business colleague, in shock, once told me when she found out I'm Jewish.

And since I'm getting warmed up here, Jews-by-choice belong in this conversation, too. There is no hierarchy of Jews. A Jew is a Jew. By birth or by choice, it's the same. The same! By law! Once we remember that, there's nothing at all that needs to be asked, is there?

Now, if you should happen to forget all this, and someone responds to you with, "Why are you asking me that?" it's okay. Take a second to realize what you've said, apologize, smile, and then have a real conversation.

In 2019, it's time to get comfortable with the growing diversity of our *kehillah*. Jews of color and Jews by choice and Jews from cultures other than North America bring perspectives our white members have likely never thought about. Many have had experiences that certainly I haven't had—and maybe you, too—and thus bring different world views. Different priorities. Different ways of figuring things out. This diversity enriches us all. If our community is to continue to thrive, if Conservative Judaism in the United States is to thrive, we have to be totally welcoming, fully accepting, and completely nonjudgmental. And we have to learn how not to ask offensive questions of people who don't look like most of us.



Clergy Corner

RABBI AARON ALEXANDER



Learning from What's Missing

There is a somewhat noticeable absence in the liturgy of *Purim*, the primary holiday on this month's calendar. On most joyous days in the Jewish calendar, like *Yamim Tovim* and *Rosh Hodesh*, we recite the *Hallel* service before reading from the *Torah*. It consists of Psalms 113-118, a selection chosen for their inclusion of significant "miracle moments and ideas" that help us celebrate the joyfulness of special days. (You can find the *Hallel* service on page 316 of our *Lev Shalem Shabbat Siddur*.)

But isn't *Purim* just that? A commemoration and celebration of our triumph over Haman and King Ahasuerus? Does it not make perfect sense that on this particular holiday the *Hallel* should be formally recited?

Well, yes and no, which is a predictably Jewish answer. As it happens, this very question was raised in the *Talmud* (*Tractate Megilla*, 14a).

Three reasons for *Hallel*'s exclusion are offered:

1. The reading of the *Megilla* is itself a quasi-rendering of "*Hallel*," thus not requiring a formal *Hallel* service. It would be, as it were, redundant.
1. *Hallel* is attached to miraculous events which occurred in the Land of Israel. This story happens someplace else entirely, so *Hallel* would not be appropriate for *Purim*.
2. The story isn't over. It never really is, to be sure, but in this case the king was still the king, and the people still in exile, if also alive.

So which is it? Yes. For the *Talmud*, deciding which opinion is correct demands less attention than the explicit multiplicity of potential answers. In this case, each of the potential answers offers us a path to understanding what it means to meaningfully participate in *Purim* this year.

1. The *Megilla* reading is the celebratory service. Even though parts of the story are challenging, dark, and uncomfortable—we still relish the chance to smile and laugh while glimpses of redemption are being recited with pomp and precision.
2. We also recognize that as "home" as we feel here in America, it is still possible to live in that comfort and still express a longing for "homeland." Our story is always attached in some way to the Land of Israel, even as we experience rich Jewish lives elsewhere.
3. Every celebration has to include some tangible recognition of our continued struggle for everyone's liberation. We live in a country and world in which far too many people, even after achieving a certain amount of dignity, still live under oppression absent of the human dignity deserved. *Purim* reminds us that our role is to ensure human dignity is an absolute right, for which others are obligated.

Yes, friends, all that from the [not so] simple absence of *Hallel* on *Purim*. But that's what we do. We draw meaning from what (and whom!) we see, and what we don't see. It doesn't get more Jewish than that.

See you on *Purim*. It's going to be a lot of fun, and very meaningful.

(Join us! See page 4 for some teasers....)



LOST AT HOME

A JOURNEY TO EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE

PURIM @ ADAS MARCH 20-21, 2019

Sunday, March 17

10:30 am: Purim Carnival

Erev Purim, Wednesday, March 20

6:00 pm: Mincha

6:30 pm: Full Megillah Reading (TEM Family Service)

7:00 pm: Full Megillah Reading & Purim Shpiel

Followed by Refreshments & Celebration

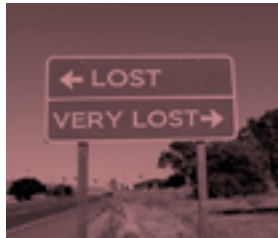
Purim, Thursday, March 21

7:15 am: Morning Minyan & Megillah Reading



Purim demands that we use a unique prism to peer into our lives and communities. Day in and day out, the typical windows into humanity are determined for us, but on Purim we flip the model on its head. We deploy the Book of Esther to re-frame the picture of life. We use humor where seriousness so often prevails. We mobilize laughter as the avenue from which old truths become newly experienced.

We certainly can't do Purim every day, but if we never see the world with Purim goggles, we'll likely miss some of the sacred stuff that lies right before our hearts.








This year our Purim Prism will be "**Lost@Home**." Why? Because sometimes the best way to find ourselves is to briefly lose ourselves. **In other words, in order to see the reality that is "Adas" in all of its holy facets, once in while we must imagine it from the other side—the lost side.**

To that end, we'll be gently playing with some of the building's more common features to create a sensation that begs one more glance, one more moment of reflection, and one more attempt at clarity. Not all who wander are lost, the famous quote goes. But anyone who is lost gets to wander.



These crazy things are happening this Purim:

-  Our famous, elaborately-themed Purim building experience
-  Full Megillah reading with music mash-up and "Adas Mockumentary 2019"
-  Food food food, and drinks, and more food
-  Animated walls coming to life around you
-  Formal Bar Mitzvah and Sad Song Karaoke party in Kay Hall



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.



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, all of 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 might otherwise have none. This legal procedure technically transfers ownership of *hametz* that remains in our pantry during the festival. Technical ownership reverts to us when the festival is over.

Please use this form and send it to Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org by April 12.

Dear Hazzan Goldsmith:

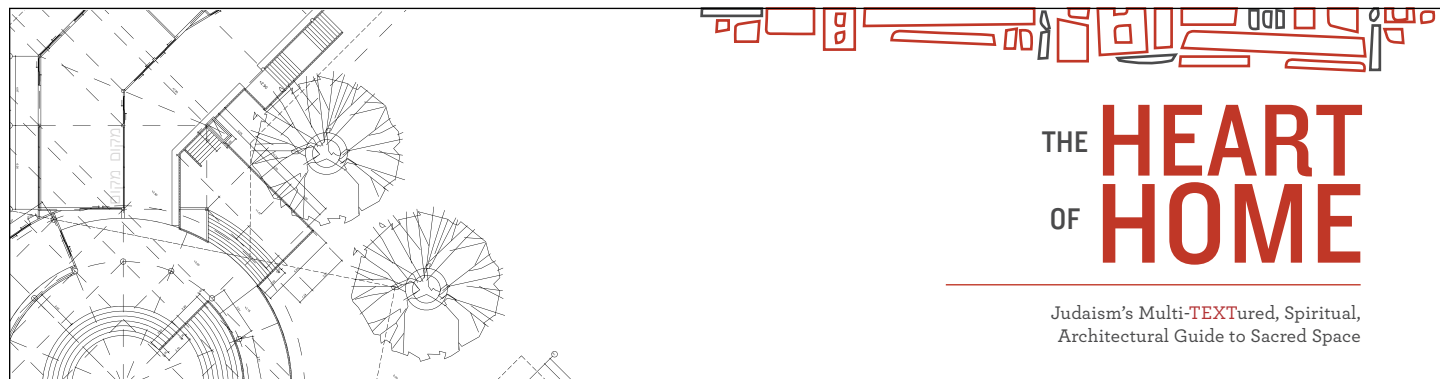
Please sell our *hametz* so that we have fulfilled our obligation of religious ownership and accept this contribution so that others are assured of a *seder*.

Please print:

Name _____

Home Address _____

Business Address _____



MakomDC 2018–19 Season

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

Over the course of the year, our rabbis and distinguished scholars will lead us in guided text study, conversations, and presentations that explore the Jewish tradition’s essential teachings on defining holy community. Together we’ll navigate the particular values that bind us and the universal ideas that inspire us, and then think together about where they do and don’t intersect. **To learn more visit adasisrael.org/makomdc.** Register for lectures or classes online or by calling Marcy Spiro, 202-362-4433, ext. 113.

2018-2019 MENDELSON SHABBAT SCHOLAR



POST-KIDDUSH HALAKHA CLASS

Rabbi Dr. Alyssa Gray

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 @ 1:00 PM

Join us as our March Mendelson *Shabbat* Scholar, Dr. Alyssa Gray, guest 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. Dr. Gray is the Emily Sand Rabbi Bernard H. Mehlman Chair in Rabbinics and Professor of Codes and Responsa Literature at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and the author of *A Talmud in Exile: The Influence of Yerushalmi Avodah Zarah on the Formation of Bavli Avodah Zarah*.



The Text 2.0: In-Depth *Halakhah* (Jewish Law) w/ Rabbi Aaron Alexander

TUESDAYS: MARCH 19, & MAY 21 @ 7:30 PM

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



Boker Or Shabbat Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

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

March 2: Rabbi Aaron Alexander, **March 9:** Rabbi Elianna Yolkut, **March 16:** Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

March 23: Rabbi Aaron Alexander, **March 30:** Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt



Friday *Parsha* Study w/ 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.

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.



Highlights from:

Mayim b'Sasson

מים בשון

A Joyful Mikvah Rededication Ceremony



New Member Reception

MARCH 8

Please join us in the Biran *Beit Midrash* on Friday, March 8, at 5:30 pm, for a new member reception. This is an invitation to all our wonderful new members at Adas Israel to join us for a relaxed “meet and greet” with the Adas Israel clergy, lay leaders, and community members! Long-standing members of the community are also encouraged to attend to welcome our new friends! We hope you will also stay for our Return Again to *Shabbat* service, which begins at 6:30 pm.



Sisterhood Shabbat

MARCH 22-23, [LEARN MORE ON P. 28](#)**Sisterhood Shabbat 5779 will be held March 22-23, 2019.**

The theme is “The Eternal Flame: From Purim to Passover to Pittsburgh – Women’s Contributions to Jewish Resiliency through the Ages.” Our speaker, underwritten by the Mozelle Saltz (z”l) Fund for Sisterhood Speakers, is educator Rabbi Avi Strausberg of the Hadar Institute

Friday, March 22

6pm: Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma’ariv services in the Biran Beit Midrash. Rabbi Strausberg’s sermon is entitled, *The Posture of Hope and the Measure of Resilience*.

Saturday, March 23

9:30am: Shabbat Service in Smith Sanctuary. Rabbi Strausberg’s dvar Torah will describe *The Women Who Took Control and the Rabbis Who Love Them for it*. The Kiddush Lunch that follows is sponsored by congregant Donald Saltz in memory of his wife, Mozelle (z”l), a Sisterhood member who was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

1:15pm: Rabbi Strausberg will conclude her two days of teaching with a presentation entitled, *From Silence to Protest: The Different Faces of Resilience*. Join us for two wonderful days of prayer, study, food, and friendship.



USCJ Hosts Conference of Large Congregations at Adas Israel

Representatives from the largest Conservative synagogues in North America gathered at Adas Israel to discuss a variety of important strategies for strengthening our *kellihot* (Jewish communities) inside and outside the walls of our synagogues. The conference was organized by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), which functions essentially as the “trade association” of conservative synagogues in North America. Adas Israel was chosen as the location for the conference for the community’s commitment to excellence and congregational vibrancy, these past several years in particular.

Rabbis Lauren Holtzblatt and Aaron Alexander led the conference attendees in a meaningful Return Again to *Shabbat Maariv* service, and participants discussed in detail a number of the exciting initiatives that we are developing in our congregation. It was an honor to share our experiences and successes with the broader North American Jewish landscape, and to learn from other conference participants, as we always strive for continuous growth, learning, and engagement at every level of congregational life here at Adas.

MM¹⁸₁₉

Musical Moments at Adas

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

Kol HaOlam 2019



The New & Enhanced Kol HaOlam Competition

Saturday, March 2 @ 8:00 pm

Buy your tickets in advance at
adasisrael.org/kolhaolam!

- **Eight powerhouse Jewish a cappella groups from colleges and universities around the country**
- **All new format: The stakes are higher — the music is louder!**
- **Jewish Celebrity MC Noah Aronson**
- **All new audience participation: YOU CHOOSE THE WINNER!**

There are competitions for a cappella groups out there, such as the Harmony Sweepstakes and ICCA, but there was a void in the Jewish a cappella world—at least until 2011! The inaugural Kol HaOlam National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Competition held in Washington, DC, saw *Tizmoret* (Queens College) crowned as the first official National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella champion. After *Tizmoret* repeated in 2012, *Hooshir* (Indiana University) claimed the title in 2013 and 2014, *Tizmoret* again in 2015, *Jewop* in 2016, *Rak Shalom* in 2017, and *Ani V'Ata NYU* in 2018! Who will be crowned the next champion?



Kol HaOlam 2019

What's more fun than attending Kol HaOlam, the only national, Jewish, collegiate a cappella competition? How about getting to vote for the winner yourself? Or a "celebrity" MC whose original tunes are sung in Jewish communities across the nation?

But first, some background. For those of you who have never attended Kol HaOlam weekend, think of it as Pitch Perfect Goes to a *Shabbaton*. Even before we get to the big event on Saturday night, we experience a rousing *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, where the students join with Adas members to pray, not just with *kavanah* but also in multi-part harmony. Services are followed by a *Shabbat* dinner for the students and anyone else who wishes to sign up, after which there is both dessert for our mouths and dessert for the soul in the form of spirited and tuneful *zemirot* (*Shabbat* and other Jewish songs). Then, on *Shabbat* morning, some of the a cappella groups perform during services and sometimes even during *kiddush*.

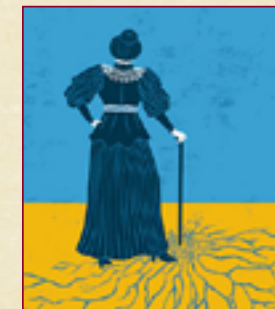
On Saturday night, eight groups—selected through a rigorous video audition process—take the stage to see who will emerge as this year's Kol HaOlam champion. In the past, a panel of expert a cappella musicians has judged the competition and selected the winners, with the exception of one "audience favorite" category." This year, we're flipping the script: a three-judge panel will select the top four of the eight groups on the basis of a first-round performance. Then, after a second round of performances, the audience will vote on their phones to determine the first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Another exciting development this year is the participation of Noah Aronson as the master of ceremonies. Noah, one of the most acclaimed contemporary composers on the Jewish music scene, is best known for his award-winning album, *Am I Awake*, and its blockbuster title song (a favorite of our Return Again services!). While his solo albums feature instrumentation, Noah was a founding member of Jewish a cappella supergroup Six13, so his a cappella game is equally strong. We're also honored to have three fantastic judges participating. Adas Israel's own Cantor Arianne Brown will be joined by Tizmoret alumnus Cory Hecht, who has performed on the Kol HaOlam stage multiple times over the years, and Aaron Dunn, voice and theater teacher at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, who coaches the CESJDS high school a cappella group, Shir Madness.

In addition to hearing from our eight competitors and voting for the winners, the audience will have an opportunity to sing with Noah and hear a short musical set by last year's Kol HaOlam winner, Ani V'ata of New York University. So how could you even think about missing Adas's very own March Madness? We look forward to seeing you—and singing with you—at Kol HaOlam!

Tickets are available online at adasisrael.org/kolhaolam.

Theater J - The Jewish Queen Lear



The Jewish Queen Lear

March 13 – April 7,

Georgetown University's Davis Performing Arts Center, 37th & O Streets NW

Join the Adas Israel group attending March 27 @ 12:00 Noon

Special discount tickets: \$30 (contact Marcy Spiro, marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org)

A bold, independent heroine for the ages, Mirele Efros—the Jewish Queen Lear—stands at the center of this epic, gripping story of power, pride, and maternal sacrifice. A wealthy widow and savvy businesswoman who wants to find a good wife for her son, Mirele suffers a fall of Shakespearean proportions when her children turn against her. Wildly successful in its time, this 1898 masterpiece of Yiddish theater shines in a scintillating new English translation directed by Theater J's Artistic Director. We will be providing a bus leaving from Adas at 11:15 am. Join us at 11:00 am in the Youth Lounge to hear from Cantor Arianne Brown about the work she did on this production.

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments

Scenes From Our Sunny Adas Gathering In Florida

On February 4th, Adas members who took a break from the cold winter weather in Palm Beach, FL, had the opportunity to connect with our incredible clergy, leadership and fellow community members, to enjoy a varied presentation of music by Cantor Arianne Brown. Enjoy some highlights below!



Three Weddings & A Statement

WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION, MARCH 26

Whether local or long distance, you can join us for this celebration of love!
Learn more and register online at www.whctemple.org/3weddings.
We love Israel and support love and marriage in Israel!

Dear Adas Israel Community:

We are writing to invite you and your congregation to participate in an exciting and powerful event—**Three Weddings and a Statement at Washington Hebrew Congregation on Tuesday, March 26, beginning at 6:30 pm**. It will be a celebration of love, our love for Israel, and our commitment to freedom of choice in marriage in Israel. It will be a quiet, loving protest, to foster availability of legally recognized Jewish marriage to all Jews in Israel, to attain for all Jews in Israel a right to be married lawfully in their homeland.

The organizers are a partnership. WHC, Adas Israel Congregation, the Israeli Religious Action Center, the Masorti Movement of Israel/Masorti Foundation, ARZA, the Union for Reform Judaism, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, MercazUSA, and Jewish congregations around the nation, all support and host this event here in our nation's capital. Three Jewish Israeli couples who cannot marry at home will be married at WHC.

- The bride in one couple is not recognized as Jewish because her mother, who converted, is deaf, and her mother's conversion was not recognized in Israel.
- Another couple rejects the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate's rigid control over Jewish marriage and refuses to marry under that system.
- The third is a transgender, same-sex couple, who are not allowed to marry in Israel.

They will be married by rabbis representing Judaism's different movements, including our own Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander, under three *chuppot* whose poles are wrapped in ribbons bearing the names of synagogues and Jewish organizations from around the country. A triply joyous wedding reception celebrating the couples will follow the ceremonies. As you may know, a similar event, held at New York City's Temple Emanu-El in December 2017, received positive attention both here and in Israel. The Three Weddings at Washington Hebrew will take place two weeks before Israel's important, legislative election, and we cannot think of a better time for Israel's political and religious leadership from across the spectrum to hear our united voice in support of the values of love and equality. This will be done through the "Statement" (see full statement at www.whctemple.org/3weddings).

The Statement will be signed on March 26 by those attending the event and digitally by others who cannot attend but want to show their support. It will be sent to Israel's Prime Minister following the April 9 election. The Union for Reform Judaism and United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism are asking all affiliated synagogues to show their support by signing the Statement and adding their congregation's name to colorful ribbons on the chuppot poles.

To show strength and commitment, it is especially important for our local congregations to partner with us. There are several opportunities—in addition to signing the Statement and adding your congregation's name to the chuppot ribbons—for you to become involved. Information about these opportunities can be found on the WHC website at whctemple.org/3Weddings, or by contacting Stephanie Tankel at stankel@whctemple.org.

We hope you will join us now and on March 26 to raise a toast along with your voice!

Three Weddings and a Statement is presented jointly by Washington Hebrew Congregation (<https://www.whctemple.org/index.php>), and Adas Israel Congregation (<https://www.adasisrael.org>), in partnership with the Israel Religious Action Center (<https://www.irac.org/>), the Union for Reform Judaism (<https://urj.org/>), the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (<https://uscj.org/>), and the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel (<https://masorti.org/>).

JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington

"When it's over, I want to say: all my life I was a bride married to amazement. I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms."

MARY OLIVER

We live in a goal-oriented society, especially here in the DC area. But how often do we think about our spiritual goals? And what does that even mean? Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel says, "Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement . . . get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed." As we enter the lovely spring season, opportunities for amazement abound: a patch of earth we walk by one morning becomes a bunch of daffodils the next; a barren tree seems to sprout green leaves in slow motion before our eyes, and it can look like an artist arrived while we were asleep and selectively dabbed bright colors of paint around town. It's hard to miss the miracle of a DC spring, which makes paying close attention to its fluid beauty a perfect mindfulness practice. This can help us develop the capacity for amazement, and we can begin to sense that in every corner, even those of personal or communal darkness, mystery and wonder are there to be seen. JMCW offers opportunities to help cultivate this capacity by quieting the mind and creating space to connect with ourselves and others through song, prayer, breath, and movement. And this month, we are offering a special Intro to Jewish Mindfulness Series! As Rabbi Lawrence Kushner writes: "To be a Jew means to wake up and to keep your eyes open to the many beautiful, mysterious, and holy things that happen all around us every day." Enjoy the spring anew, this season. And come join JMCW programs, services, and workshops, as together we explore the Jewish tradition of amazement.

ONGOING OFFERINGS

Our weekly JMCW meditation and yoga classes offer a home to those who wish to explore embodied spirituality. The yoga program includes an array of practices that seek to awaken and stimulate the senses through full mind/body exploration. Classes often draw on Mussar, *Kabbalah*, and the wisdom of Jewish thinkers. Meditation sits offers participants an opportunity to come together for guided teachings, a wide variety of meditation techniques, and silent community sits.



Vinyasa Lunar Flow

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30–7:20 PM

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



Weekly Meditation Sit

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30–8:30 PM

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

Adas Israel Community Mikvah

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

JMCW RECOMMENDS . . .



I Asked For Wonder: A Spiritual Anthology

by Abraham Joshua Heschel

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel is considered one of the most influential Jewish thinkers of the 20th century through his writing, social activism, and many teachings, including the interdependence of God and humanity. This volume contains beautiful essays on wonder and radical amazement.

I Asked For Wonder is available in the Adas library, as are many other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

Contemplate the wonders of creation, the Divine dimension of their being, not as a dim configuration that is presented to you from a distance, but as the reality in which you live. —Rav Abraham Isaac Kook



Return Again to *Shabbat*

with Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander & The Return Again Band

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 @ 6:30 PM

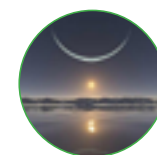
This monthly service is an intergenerational favorite in our congregation! Join us for a reflective journey into the power of *Shabbat*. The evening features seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song. A Community *Shabbat* dinner follows this service; reservations are 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, MARCH 5 @ 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.

NEW: Intro to Jewish Mindfulness Series

SUNDAYS, MARCH 10, 24, & 31, & APRIL 7 @ 1:00–3:00 PM

Introducing JMCW's second annual Intro to Jewish Mindfulness Series! Come join our newly designed course in Jewish mindfulness. Together we will explore embodied spiritual practice, contemplative Jewish meditation, Kabbalah, chanting and niggunim, and much more. This unique series offers participants a deep dive into Jewish mindfulness through the eyes of our beloved faculty. Each session in this five-part series will be team taught by our rotating roster of exceptional teachers. Registration is now open!

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



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

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

adasisrael.org/jmcw



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>2419 Adar I</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 amBeginners' Hebrew Class</div> <div>10:30 amJMCW Wise Aging 2.0</div> <div>1:00 pmDC Klezmer Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2520 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2621 Adar I</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: Synthesis & Application</div>	<div>2722 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Lunar Flow Yoga</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>8:15 pmJSC Class</div>	<div>2823 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>124 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:00 pmTraditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service</div> <div>7:30 pmCommunity Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:40 pm</div>	<div>2 PARSHAT VAYAKHEL/SHABBAT SHEKALIM25 Adar I</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Torah Study</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Musical Service</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Samantha Hunker</div> <div>Sermon by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>1:15 pmLev B'Lev Speaker</div> <div>6:40 pmHavdalah</div> <div>8:00 pmKol HaOlam Concert</div>
<div>326 Adar I</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 amBeginners' Hebrew Class</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>427 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>528 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmRosh Chodesh: Celebrating New Moon</div>	<div>629 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow</div> <div>7:00 pmMax Ticktin Latke-Hamentasch Debate</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>730 Adar I</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>81 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:30 pmReturn Again Service w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander</div> <div>8:00 pmCommunity Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:47 pm</div>	<div>9 PARSHAT PEKUDE2 Adar II</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Nicola Klarfeld</div> <div>Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>6:47 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>103 Adar II</div> <div>8:45 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 amJMCW Wise Aging</div> <div>10:30 amBeginners' Hebrew Class</div> <div>1:00 pmIntro To Jewish Mindfulness</div> <div>1:30 pm3G Genealogy Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>114 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>125 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>11:00 amWeekday Torah w/ Sisterhood</div> <div>12:00 pmDowntown Study Group</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>136 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Vinyasa Lunar Flow</div> <div>7:30 pmSisterhood Knits, Sews & Crafts</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>147 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>158 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Talmudic Commentary</div> <div>5:30 pmYoung Family Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat w/ Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>6:55 pm</div>	<div>16 PARSHAT VAYIKRA/SHABBAT ZACHOR9 Adar II</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Return Again Lite</div> <div>with Rabbi Krinsky</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Emerson Luzzatto</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>D'var Torah By Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>1:00 pmMakomDC: Dr. Alyssa Grey</div> <div>7:55 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>1710 Adar II</div> <div>9:00 amPurim Sing-Along</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 amPurim Carnival</div> <div>10:30 amBeginners' Hebrew Class</div> <div>2:00 pmDC Klezmer Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>1811 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>1912 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: The Text 2.0</div>	<div>2013 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmMincha</div> <div>6:00 pmHavdalah/Maariv/TEM Megillah/Shpiel</div> <div>7:00 pmFull Megillah Reading & Purim Shpeil</div> <div>8:45 pmPurim Party</div>	<div>2114 Adar II</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2215 Adar II</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Talmudic Commentary</div> <div>9:30 amL'Dor VaDor Service with PreK-2</div> <div>w/ Rabbi Krinsky & Cantor Brown</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat - Sisterhood Shabbat</div> <div>6:30 pmL'Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>7:00 pmSisterhood Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>7:01 pm</div>	<div>23 PARSHAT TZAV16 Adar II</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Service - Sisterhood Shabbat</div> <div>with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>Traditional Egalitartian Minyan</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>1:15 pmSisterhood Shabbat Speaker</div> <div>7:00 pmIntro to Judaism</div> <div>8:01 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>2417 Adar II</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pmIntro to Jewish Mindfulness</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2518 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2619 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Miyan</div>	<div>2720 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amEvening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pmJMCW Lunar Flow Yoga</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>8:15 pmJSC Class</div>	<div>2821 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>12:15 pmJCC Bible Class</div> <div>1:00 pmSisterhood Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2922 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat w/ Hazzan Goldsmith</div> <div>7:08 pm</div>	<div>30 PARSHAT SHEMINI/SHABBAT PARAH23 Adar II</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Torah Study</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Return Again Service</div> <div>with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>B'not Mitzvah: Daisy & Sally Esquith</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amParsha For Kids</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmShabbat Mincha</div> <div>8:08 pmHavdalah</div>

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

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

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM): Every Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full P'sukei D'Zimrah (introductory Psalms), Shacharit, and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a d'var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org.

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

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. Netivot, for students in grades K–3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden.

‘Dial-in’ for Programs & Services: If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-686-8405.

Library Open on Shabbat: Our third-floor library is open on Shabbat following services. You may sign out materials using our “no-writing Shabbat method,” explained in signs on the check-out desks. For assistance during the week, contact our Director of Library Services, Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).



Education & Youth

@ ADAS ISRAEL

From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON



Welcoming Author Dori Weinstein

From the narratives of our tradition to the stories that we co-create every day in our shared Jewish lives, Jews have been, and continue to be, the people of the book. This month the Education Department welcomes Dori Weinstein as a guest teacher. She comes not only to share her children's chapter book series, but also to talk about the landscape of Jewish literature for children and her approach to bringing Jewish characters and rituals to life. We look forward to welcoming her in both the religious school and high school programs and to

Jewish Children's Author Dori Weinstein Is Coming to Adas Israel!

Tuesday, March 5, & Wednesday, March 6

Educator and award-winning author Dori Weinstein is coming to Adas to talk with our students about writing and publishing and to share her Jewish children's chapter book series: YaYa & YoYo. According to Rabbi Alvin Mars, PhD, Senior Consultant to the President of the JCC Association of North America for Education Development, "Dori Weinstein captures the attention of youngsters and their parents alike with captivating storytelling that links contemporary kids, their families, and their lives to the core of Jewish traditions and values."

If you would like to pre-order signed copies of Dori's books, please return this order form and a check (payable to Dori Weinstein) to your child's teacher on or before **Tues. 3/5 or Wed. 3/6**

Name of student: _____

_____ copies of *Sliding into the New Year* (new cover: \$10 each, original cover: \$9 each) (Circle your preference)

_____ copies of *Shaking in the Shack* (\$11 each)

_____ copies of *Hoopla Under the Huppah* (\$15 each)

***Books are priced individually, however when purchasing the full set it is discounted to \$34**

Autograph the book(s) to: _____

(Please write the name(s) exactly as you'd like the books to be signed)

Enclosed is \$ _____



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Friday, March 1–Saturday March 2
5th-Grade Shabbaton at Adas Israel

Sunday, March 17
Religious School Purim Carnival

Friday, March 22 @ 6:00 pm
Kindergarten–2nd–Grade L'Dor vaDor



SEEING & TEACHING EACH CHILD

Almost 80 years after the first intelligence tests were developed, Howard Gardner challenged the view that something called "intelligence" could be measured objectively and reduced to a single number or "IQ" score. *In Frames of Mind* (1983) he proposed the existence of at least eight basic intelligences. In his theory of Multiple Intelligences (MI theory), Gardner sought to broaden the scope of human potential beyond the confines of the IQ score and suggested that intelligence has more to do with the capacity for (1) solving problems and (2) fashioning products in a context-rich and naturalistic setting. Gardner's eight comprehensive categories or "intelligences":

- **Linguistic:** The capacity to use words effectively, whether orally (e.g., as a storyteller, orator, or politician) or in writing (e.g., as a poet, playwright, editor, or journalist).
- **Logical-Mathematical:** The capacity to use numbers effectively (e.g., as a mathematician, tax accountant, or statistician) and to reason well (e.g., as a scientist, computer programmer, or logician).
- **Spatial:** The ability to perceive the visual-spatial world accurately (e.g., as a hunter, scout, or guide) and to perform transformations upon those perceptions (e.g., as an interior decorator, architect, artist, or inventor).
- **Bodily-Kinesthetic:** Expertise in using one's whole body to express ideas and feelings (e.g., as an actor, mime, athlete, or dancer) and facility in using one's hands to produce or transform things (e.g., as a craftsperson, sculptor, mechanic, or surgeon).
- **Musical:** The capacity to perceive (e.g., as a music aficionado), discriminate (e.g., as a music critic), transform (e.g., as a composer), and express (e.g., as a performer) musical forms.
- **Interpersonal:** The ability to perceive and make distinctions among the moods, intentions, motivations, and feelings of other people.
- **Intrapersonal:** Self-knowledge and the ability to act adaptively on the basis of that knowledge.
- **Naturalistic:** The ability to easily recognize and classify plants, animals, and other things in nature.

Using Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences leads to a greater understanding each student's unique gifts and he or she learns. What do you think is your intelligence?

—Pamela Gorin, Assistant Director of Education

YOUTH @ AI



Adas Israel's Youth Department is offering a variety of wonderful programming for families this *Purim*. The holiday commemorates the resilience and strength of Jewish community, and, to emphasize the importance of community, each age cohort has an opportunity and special way to participate in our *Purim* celebrations and traditions.

Our annual *Purim* Carnival on Sunday, March 17, is open to all members of the Adas community. There will be games, bouncy rides, and delicious snacks. Our Madrichim and USYers will join us at the carnival to facilitate and lead a variety of activities. Religious School students will have additional programming with the Education Team and teachers to learn about and celebrate the holiday in dynamic ways tailored to their age groups. We have parades, storytelling, and videos planned for our *Gishron* through 6th-grade students. By providing activities for all of our student age groups, our *Purim* celebrations will embrace and grow the strength and connections in community.

On *Purim*, March 21, our Wednesday Religious School students will learn and celebrate the holiday with special games and story-telling. One Religious School tradition involves our 6th-grade class performing a *Purim* play for our Gan students. *Purim* is the perfect time for students of every age to celebrate together.

—Sarah Attermann, Youth and Family Educator

Continued on page 30



Ma TovU

Amy Schwartz, Eric Koenig & Family

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

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

You are celebrating your 20th anniversary as members of Adas this year! How did you end up in the DC area, and what brought you to Adas Israel?

Both of us grew up in the New York area—Amy in the city, Eric in Fair Lawn, NJ—and came to Washington for jobs. Eric first worked here as a Hill intern during the summer after his freshman year in college, then stayed to work in the Department of Health and Human Services during the Carter administration, and then, after law school and a clerkship, as an associate at Covington and Burling. Amy came here as a young journalist for an internship at the *New Republic* and moved on to the *Washington Post*, where she spent nearly two decades as an editorial writer and op ed columnist. Oddly enough, we met not in D.C. but on a fellowship abroad in Germany in 1990–91, having been recruited separately to apply for a new program called the Chancellor’s Scholarship, which placed nine young Americans in professional settings during the exciting year of German reunification. Amy returned to Washington and her *Post* job after a year’s leave, but Eric went on to a job with Microsoft in Paris, leaving us with a rather long commute! This went on for six years before we solved our geography problem: We got married in 1997, Amy took another leave to spend most of a year in Paris, and Eric then transferred to the Washington office in 1998.

Years earlier, Amy had gotten involved in Adas and particularly in the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* after living nearby on Newark Street, finding in it a wonderful, vibrant young community that connected with her Jewish upbringing. When Eric moved back, it was the natural place to affiliate and worship as a growing family.

It has certainly turned out to be the right place for us, and we’ve spent countless happy *Shabbat* and weekday hours at Adas, with the kids working their way through Tot *Shabbat*, the Gan, the Religious School, and Ma’alot. Eric and Amy each served on multiple committees, and Amy did stints as a board member and as vice president for education.

Amy, in addition to your job at *Moment Magazine*, you run the Jewish Study Center and we are fortunate to host classes here at Adas on Wednesday evenings. Can you tell us more about the Jewish Study Center and how you became involved?

The Study Center was founded by Rabbi Max Ticktin (z”l) and Norman Shore in the 1970s as a way for people of all different Jewish backgrounds, whether rabbis, professors, or enthusiastic laypeople, to teach and learn together informally. In 1991, when I’d returned from Germany and was writing about it for the *Post*, I gave a talk at the downtown JCC (then still in temporary digs on Jefferson Place NW). Afterward, a man approached me and said he ran a small independent adult education outfit called the Jewish Study Center, and would I be interested in doing some volunteer teaching in the evenings on some Jewish topic? I said I’d love to, but that I didn’t know enough about any Jewish topic to teach it. He was undeterred, and since I often wrote about poetry and literature for the *Post*, we dreamed up a course on recent Jewish women’s poetry, which I enjoyed so much that I ended up teaching many more courses, then joining the board, then becoming president. At some point, I settled into the habit of teaching Psalms, which gets more enjoyable every year as I (and my long-term students) dig into the texts more deeply. Many others have had parallel experiences, as we discover every summer by swapping stories at the annual volunteer appreciation dinner. (The man who recruited me, by the way, was Paul Scham, a longtime Adas member and now director of the Gildenhorn Center for Israel Studies at the University of Maryland, one of many eminent local scholars who’ve run the Study Center.)

Eric, in addition to being an attorney, you are the Treasurer of Appleseed and have been involved in a number of other nonprofit organizations. Can you tell us more about your involvement in these groups?

I am passionate about helping groups that advance human rights, access to justice, and equal opportunity, both here and abroad. I have served as board chair of the Juvenile Law Center, a Philadelphia-based group that works to better the lives of

youth in our child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and as board chair (and now treasurer) of the Appleseed Foundation, a network of 18 justice centers in states and Mexico City that works to achieve reforms that make the system work better for the underprivileged. I spent several years helping start our Mexico City center, which seeks to build a pro bono culture among lawyers and has been wonderfully successful. I serve as a board member of the Public Interest Law Network, which inspires lawyers in many countries to advance the public good, and was a board member of the now-disbanded group Global Rights, which taught and encouraged local groups in many countries to use international human rights treaties and tools to advance their work. I started working with that group as a young volunteer lawyer, serving as an official observer of the first post-Ceausescu elections in Romania in the spring of 1990. I also enjoyed serving as treasurer and trustee of Georgetown Day School. Nothing has made me happier than catching glimpses of my kids thriving at school!

You have three wonderful children who grew up at Adas. Where are they now, and when not at Adas, what are they doing?

Our oldest, Sandy, is a sophomore at Harvard this year and has just decided to major in history. He is also studying Chinese and spent last summer in Beijing, becoming proficient enough to be an excellent tour guide when we joined him there briefly in August! Danny is a high school senior, loves math and science, and will be joining his brother next year. Mimi, our youngest, is a junior this year, about to plunge into the fray. (Who said spacing your children was a thing?) All our children have been “lifers” at Georgetown Day School, and, perhaps not surprising, all three are into politics, though each in a different style: Sandy interned last spring for a Massachusetts state senator, Danny loves to debate philosophical ideas, and Mimi went door-to-door for Hillary and joined the “die-in” protests at the White House after the Parkland shootings. Mimi and Danny also spent many summers at Camp Ramah New England, to which Danny will return this summer as a counselor.

I’ve had the pleasure of traveling with all three of your children to Israel on our Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience during the summer after their 10th-grade Confirmation year. Every trip has had similarities and differences. We’d love to hear the highlights of the trip from Sandy, Danny, and Mimi.

Sandy’s most vivid memories are of visiting Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, where Ben Gurion declared statehood, and traveling to the Lebanese border with Hezbollah outposts visible in the distance. Danny’s group had wonderful moments in Jerusalem and in the Negev, especially one night when they hiked out in the darkness, lay down, and talked while looking at the stars. Mimi also loved hiking and climbing in the Negev and remembers with fondness the night the group spent in a Bedouin tent.

One of the most popular events the Jewish Study Center hosts each year is the Great *Latke-Hamentasch* Debate. So, how

does the Koenig/Schwartz family vote?

The vote is 5-0: *Latkes*, early and often, regardless of season! Eric adds, “Amy and I were pleasantly surprised, when living in Germany, to find that fabulous *latkes* (locally called *reibekuchen*) could be obtained at a popular stand near the Cologne train station and were further improved with a generous slice of smoked salmon on top.”

We know all of your children have been to Israel with their peers. What are some of your favorite family vacation spots? Do you have any big trips planned before Danny heads off to college next fall?

We love to spend time at our house on Martha’s Vineyard—though the kids are so busy nowadays that we’re rarely all there together. We’ve had some wonderful travel adventures over the years, including “big trips” to Japan and Vietnam, where we were lucky enough to stay with friends and glimpse the local life, and Cambodia, where Sandy rode an elephant on his 16th birthday. On one memorable trip to London when the kids were younger, Eric managed, by ceaseless online checking and rechecking, to score five tickets to the Harry Potter Studios the day they first opened to the public. We hope we’ll take many more trips together as a family, but we’re also very pleased that the kids have developed a love for travel on their own and are already having adventures without us.



Max Ticktin Memorial *Latke-Hamentasch* Debate!
Wednesday, March 6, 7:00–9:00pm at Adas Israel

Which is better—the *latke* or the *hamentasch*? Our yet-to-be-revealed celebrity moderator and learned panelists address the eternal conundrum: Diane Bolz, Arts Editor; David Fallick, Yiddishist; Elissa Silverman, at-large member, D.C. Council . . . and others to be announced. The audience is invited to join the panel afterward in mouth-watering, hands-on research.

JSC, Adas members \$10; others \$12. Refreshments included!



sisterhoodnews

NETWORKING, NURTURING, LEARNING, SUSTAINING



Sisterhood *Shabbat* to Focus on Jewish Women's Resilience through the Ages

March 22-23 by Joyce Stern

The theme of this year's Sisterhood *Shabbat*, March 22–23, is “The Eternal Flame: From *Purim* to Passover to Pittsburgh—Women's Contributions to Jewish Resilience through the Ages.” The Torah portion for the *Shabbat* is *Tzav*, where we find the commandment to maintain the Eternal Light. Intended to teach us about the need for constancy in relating to God, the text reads: “A continual fire shall be lit on the altar; it shall not go out” (*Leviticus* 6:5–6). In time, this flame became the *ner tamid*, the eternal light found in most synagogues to signify the divine presence.

The attack visited upon the congregants at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh this past fall was a brutal demonstration of the resurgence of anti-Semitism in our day. Sisterhood *Shabbat* will take place between *Purim* and Passover, each holiday commemorating the Jewish people's deliverance from annihilation. It will celebrate the leadership of Jewish women who demonstrated resilience in the face of existential threat and constancy to God and to our eternal mission to be a Light unto the Nations.

Thanks to the generosity of congregant Donald Saltz, through the Mozelle Saltz (z”l) Fund for Sisterhood Speakers, Sisterhood is once again privileged to present to the congregation a renowned Jewish educator, **Rabbi Avi Strausberg**, who recently settled with her family in Washington, DC. She is the Director of National Learning Initiatives at Hadar. Based in New York, Hadar is a leading institution promoting Jewish education and community building. Joining the faculty of Mechon Hadar in 2016, Rabbi Strausberg is now bringing Hadar's vision and programming to the DC/MD/VA area.

Rabbi Strausberg received her rabbinic ordination and master's degree in Jewish education from Boston's Hebrew College and is a Wexner Graduate Fellow. While pursuing her studies, she served as a rabbinic intern at synagogues in Brookline, MA, and at T'ruah, an organization of rabbis dedicated to promoting human rights, where she organized an anti-trafficking campaign. She also was a Pastoral Care Fellow at a Massachusetts residence for seniors.

She holds a bachelor of science in theater from Northwestern University, and her postgraduate studies have been at Yeshivat Hadar in New York and Pardes in Jerusalem. Before joining Hadar, Rabbi Strausberg served as the Director of Congregational Learning at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, MN. Known for her skills as an educator, she has developed numerous curricula and taught students of different ages and backgrounds, including aspiring converts, during her internships and in her rabbinic positions. Energized by engaging creatively with Jewish texts, Rabbi Strausberg has written several theater pieces inspired by the Torah and maintains a *Daf Yomi* blog in which she writes daily Talmudic haiku. She is also a recurring columnist for “70 Faces of Torah” in the Huffington Post. Sisterhood plans two days of study and learning with Rabbi Strausberg. Friday at *Kabbalat Shabbat*, led in part by Rabbi Strausberg, her sermon will be on “The Posture of Hope and the Measure of Resilience.” She observes,

Resilience can take many forms. Sometimes resilience is the sheer will to keep putting one foot in front of the other when all we wish to do is give up. Other times it means taking agency over our lives in moments of powerlessness. And sometimes resilience means choosing hope and believing things will get better despite all evidence to the contrary. As examples, we look to the stories of Miriam and Ruth, two women who chose hope, and in doing so, changed not only their own lives but the lives of an entire people.

Her sermon on Saturday is called, “The Women Who Took Control and the Rabbis Who Love Them for It.” Rabbi Strausberg writes, In much of our tradition, women are not portrayed as the movers and shakers but rather are silent participants, rarely given voice. Not so in the cases of the daughters of Zelophehad and Tamar. These are stories of women who take control, who take agency in a patriarchal culture, and yet they are praised for it. What is it about these women and their stories that warrants the admiration of the rabbis?



After the congregational *kiddush*, sponsored by Donald Saltz, Rabbi Strausberg will pursue this theme with a lesson entitled, “From Silence to Protest: The Different Faces of Resilience.” She explains,

In the wake of the #metoo movement, we have seen women across the country come forward to share their stories, drawing on deep reserves of strength and resilience. In this session, we'll look to the women of our own traditions, to Esther and Queen Vashti, to Dina and a bride on her wedding night, as we discover that resilience comes in many forms.

Please join Sisterhood in welcoming Rabbi Strausberg and in thanking Donald Saltz for enabling Sisterhood to continue this wonderful tradition of scholarship and study in memory of his wife, Mozelle, who was a long time dedicated member of the Adas Israel Congregation Sisterhood.

After the Friday night service, per Sisterhood tradition, we will gather together for a *Shabbat* dinner. There, we will have the opportunity to learn about the connection of wine to both the *Purim* and Passover holidays, and to taste different kosher wines as they pertain to the four cups at the Passover *seder*. In *Exodus* 6:6-7, God uses four verbs to describe how He is going to save the Israelites, announcing that He will take them out of Egypt, deliver them from bondage, redeem them, and make them a nation. Each of God's actions corresponds to one of the four cups of wine at the *seder*, and each selected wine at dinner will match the circumstances to the Exodus. Join us to eat, drink, pray, and celebrate! Visit <https://www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood>.

ONGOING PROGRAMS



Weekday Torah with Sisterhood

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 @ 10:30 AM, FUNGER HALL

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt will lead the text study session on Tuesday, March 12, at 10:30 am, rather than the usual 10 am. *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 meet at 10:00 am in Funger Hall, meeting monthly except in the summer. Subsequent 2019 classes will be April 9, May 14, and June 11. For more information, please contact Marilyn Cooper, marilynccooper70@gmail.com.



Sisterhood in Your Community

NEXT UP: SUNDAY, MARCH 3; SUNDAY, MARCH 10; SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Sisterhood is again offering the very popular “Sisterhood in Your Community” Get-Togethers on select Sundays. 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 fun. Hosts will send out invitations to members who live in close proximity, but if you're interested, contact June Kress (202-316-3439 or junebkress@gmail.com), and she will put you in touch with the host. Thanks to Marian Fox for scheduling and then—due to the weather—rescheduling her tea, which was a huge success. Nine women enjoyed a fabulous assortment of teas and Marian's talent for baking. We all shared some great stories and loved the experience of getting to know one another. Here is the lineup for March:

- Sunday, March 3, 10:30 am–12:30 pm, Arlette Jassel will host a brunch in Bethesda.
- Sunday, March 10, 2:00–4:00 pm, Barbara Friedell will host a wine and cheese in Bethesda.
- Sunday, March 24, 2:00–4:00 pm, Rhoda Ritzenberg will host a wine and cheese in Ballston.



Take-A-Walk!

CHECK THE SISTERHOOD WEBSITE FOR THE NEXT WALK!



Sisterhood Sewing, Knitting & Craft Circle

NEXT UP: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 @ 7:30–9:00 PM, YOUTH LOUNGE

On March 13, Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith will address the group to inspire those making *tallitot*. You can purchase an *atarah* and ready-to-knot *tzitzit* online from Ben’s Tallit Shop in Jerusalem (save \$5 on shipping with code SHIP2ME), Zion Judaica in Brooklyn, and Amazon, among other vendors. Members are encouraged to continue knitting, sewing, and embroidery projects and to donate leftover wool, which we use to knit or crochet squares for afghans. All are welcome to join our monthly meetings to work on ongoing sewing, knitting, and crocheting projects, including working with silk to make *tallitot*, and to propose new projects. Ongoing knitting projects are open to new and experienced knitters and to those who crochet.

ruth & simon albert

sisterhood gift shop

PURIM PURIM PURIM PURIM

We have everything you need to celebrate Purim: graggers, tambourines, masks, beads, and crowns
Shop early for best selection.

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



***We will also be open for
Kol HaOlam, March 2,
and on Erev Purim,
March 20.**

GAN SPOTLIGHT: JANUARY 2’S

continued from pg. 25

Here at Gan HaYeled, we believe in the idea, “Nothing without joy . . .” as Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of Reggio Emilia philosophy teaches. From a Jewish perspective, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner shares the idea, “When people are joyous, they are at their best: they are generous, kind, grateful . . .” Day in and day out, we demonstrate these two teachings, which can be seen, heard, and felt when walking through the halls of the Gan. This past January the Gan grew by two more classes. We welcomed our January 2’s classes—the *Efrochim* (baby chicks) and the *Dagim* (fish). Having the opportunity to bring new two-year-olds into the Gan community in January increases joy and growth.

The *Efrochim* class, taught by Jocelyn Dorfman, Danielle Leff, and Rachel Vana, is part of our *Onah* program. The *Efrochim* class truly serves as an entry point into school and Jewish education for our youngest students, and their families. Jocelyn, Danielle, and Rachel provide a warm, nurturing, and engaging school experience by responding to the emotions and interests of the children and learning who each child is as an individual. The *Dagim* class, taught by Catherine Carroll, Tate Sweeney, Shamique Etienne, and Lauren Chambers Dennis, is part of our *Shanah* program. Our *Dagim* students arrive and are welcomed each day by their amazing team of early childhood professionals. These teachers have endless love, compassion, and joy, and the *Dagim* children thrive due to the dedication and passion of these teachers. The *Efrochim* and *Dagim* children and teachers truly are a source of light and joy!



Efrochim team: Danielle, Jocelyn, and Rachel



Dagim Team: Catherine, Lauren, Shamique, and Tate



BIRTHS

Henry Asher Raboy, son of David & Kelli Raboy, born December 28
Liora Elise Stern, daughter of Rinat Glinert & Zach Stern, born January 8

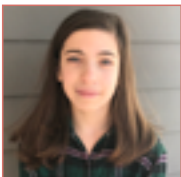
Davies Nolan Heckroth, son of Naomi & Thomas Heckroth, born January 12
Theo Shai Hagen, son of Clark & Shaina Hagen, born January 27

B'NOT MITZVAH



Samantha Hunker, March 2

Samantha Shields Hunker, daughter of Mark Hunker and Jeff Shields Hunker, is a seventh grader at the Edmund Burke School. She started her Jewish education at the DCJCC and has continued at Adas since third grade. For her *mitzvah* project, Samantha is raising funds for the Pride Fund to End Gun Violence, of which her father, Mark, is a founding board member. Samantha supports their goal to serve as the strong, concentrated voice of the LGBTQ community in the movement to stop senseless gun tragedies. She shares this *simcha* with her parents, grandmother, and many family members friends from Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, California, and beyond.



Nicola Klarfeld, March 9

Nicola Klarfeld, daughter of Debbie and Jonathan Klarfeld, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. Nicola began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For her *mitzvah* project, she will volunteer at an animal rescue organization that focuses on rescuing and finding homes for neglected and abandoned animals. Nicola shares this *simcha* with her sister, Sydney, her grandparents, and the rest of her extended family.



Emerson Luzzatto, March 16

Emerson Almeida Luzzatto is a sixth grader at The Sheridan School. She celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her grandparents, sisters, and other family and friends. For her *mitzvah* project Emerson will combine her interest in the work of Malala Yousafzai and basketball. First, Emerson will educate herself about Malala and the Nobel winner’s advocacy on behalf of girls’ education worldwide. She will meet with the director of development of the Malala Fund and will learn about Malala’s work with refugee girls by reading her 2018 book, *We Are Displaced*. Emerson plans to organize a basketball game among her family and friends coming to Washington for her *simcha* and will ask each player for a donation and explain what she has learned and why it has meaning and relevance for her. The money raised will be contributed to the Malala Fund.



Daisy and Sally Esquith, March 30

Daisy Esquith, a daughter of Katy Gingles and David Esquith, is a seventh grader at Pyle Middle School. Daisy attended the Gan HaYeled and continues her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For her *mitzvah* project, Daisy is raising awareness of and donations for women who are incarcerated for traffic fines and cannot afford bail. She is excited to share her *simcha* with her twin sister, Sally, and a community of family and friends.



Sally Esquith, a daughter of Katy Gingles and David Esquith, is a seventh grader at Pyle Middle School. She attended the Gan HaYeled and continues her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For Sally’s *mitzvah* project, she is raising awareness and donations for endangered marine life through the Oceanic Preservation Society. She is excited to share her *simcha* with her twin sister, Daisy, and a community of family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:
Michaela Miller

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Stanley Macklin, father of Rodd Macklin
Samuel Sharin, father of Patti Flagg
Sarah Toren, mother of Peter Toren

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDINGS

Mazal tov to **Michael Laskin**, son of Adas member Alan Laskin, on his engagement to **Emily Christensen**.
Lisa Friedman & Matt Kenny at Adas Israel, officiated by Rabbi Holtzblatt, were married January 3.
Ethan Waxman, son of Seth Waxman & Debra Goldberg, to **Nina Mullen**, officiated by Rabbi Holtzblatt, were married February 9.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

Mazal tov to **Abby Alter** (grade 10), chosen to represent the U.S. at the 2019 Maccabi Pan Am Games as a member of the U-18 Girls Soccer Team. The games will be played in Mexico City in July.



tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Adas Israel



Sunday MLK service at Peoples Congregational Church. In Photos: Adas members Sarah Brooks, Brian Schwalb, Lauren Queen, Nancy Weiss, and Joel Fischman.

Adas Israel celebrated and honored the legacy, wisdom, and courage of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a weekend of reflection and learning. The weekend began with a Return Again *Shabbat* Service and *Shabbat* dinner with our community partners. During dinner, our guest speaker, George Lambert, president and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League, reminded us of what it means to do the hard work of activism and opened a discussion of Dr. King's ideas in the context of Jewish text. Over dinner, each table discussed an assigned set of texts, challenging all of us to think about how we can put Dr. King's messages into action today.

On Saturday, our guest speaker, Rabbi Sandra Lawson, gave a moving sermon on the challenge of moving beyond diversity within Judaism to engagement, inclusion, and pluralism. She cited how we may fail to achieve inclusion and pluralism, and she told the truth in love that all too often, Jews of color are made to feel unwelcome in Jewish spaces. Rabbi Lawson later led a workshop where attendees discussed how Jewish communities could improve on their efforts to create inclusive and pluralistic Jewish communities. She challenged white Jews to be aware of, and work to address, the unconscious biases and assumptions that too often come about when interacting with Jews of Color—interactions that ultimately result in creating Jewish spaces that are not very welcoming to, and are therefore not inclusive of, Jews of Color.

On Sunday, Rabbis Alexander and Krinsky, along with several members of Adas Israel, attended a wonderful MLK service at Peoples Congregational Church, where the focus was on reforming the criminal justice system. The two speakers shined a light on how important it is to support those in the criminal justice system. In addition to the support you may expect around employment, job training, health care, housing, and basic living necessities, we were reminded of how something as small as a regular postcard, letter, or phone call can be a lifeline to someone in prison and can make a huge difference in that person's success when he or she re-enters the community.

It was a wonderful weekend, one that left us all with more knowledge and an enlightened perspective on what it means to put Dr. King's message into action to eradicate racism and create a world where everyone is treated fairly and equitably. We hope it inspired everyone with a renewed commitment to *tikkun olam*.



Hesed

Acts of Loving Kindness

Hesed B'Dubim

Hesed B'Dubim, the official name of our *Dubim* class for the 2018–2019 school year, was inspired by the Adas High Holy Day theme of "Heart, Hope, and Strength" with an emphasis on *hesed*. This theme is a perfect fit for our group of young learners; they have such big hearts and want nothing more to channel their hope and strength into meaningful acts of loving kindness for others.

Once the children were acclimated to school, we hit the ground running with our *hesed* program. Our first steps involved setting up the classroom environment to support our *hesed* theme. We made our very own *hesed* aprons, a *hesed*-themed bulletin board complete with pictures of each child modeling his or her apron and photos of *hesed* in action, and a Kindness wall on our front door. Each time a child engages in kindness, that child puts a sticker on the wall, and we sing our special *hesed* song. With our *hesed*-themed classroom environment in place, it was time to jump feet first into action.

Our first few months have been productive. We have baked loaves of quick bread for a classmate who was hospitalized, for Officer Chris upon his retirement from Adas, and for parents who volunteer in our classroom. We even baked cookies for Teacher Su's granddaughter, who was ill, and made a delicious batch of applesauce for Ron, our Friday *Shabbat* helper. Ron is our prayer leader on Friday during the *Bimah* story time.

Our acts of loving kindness are not limited to baking and cooking. At Thanksgiving, we created two beautiful fall-themed wall hangings for the Anne Frank House and for our assistant director, and we made homemade potpourri for our parents. When our classmates or teachers are home sick, we make "get well" phone calls. These quick chats always end with the children blowing lots of kisses to their loved ones at the other end of the phone. Just about every day, the children will ask, "Who are we calling today?" And we have the answer: grandparents.

Now that *hesed* is so much a part of our daily *Dubim* routine, it's a good time to reflect on how the children feel about helping others. As soon as the question was asked, "How do you feel about doing *hesed*?" Natalie responded "better." Henry explained, "I get a sticker"; Ellie said, "Sticker"; and Eva said, "I put a sticker on the door for Hannah and Teddy helped Izzy." Teddy replied that he feels "good." And when the parents were asked to reflect on their children's experiences in the classroom, Teddy's mom Alyssa remarked: "We love the *hesed* activities and that you teach the children about compassion

and kindness. Teddy loves to tell us about the activities, including making cookies for Su's granddaughter and calling Su when she was sick. He still suggests that at home we should make more cookies for Su's granddaughter."

In the coming months, we will continue to focus on baking and phone calls and collect tzedakah on Fridays, along with a food drive during *Purim*, a summertime art show to raise money for Reading Partners, and, we hope, additional baking and cooking projects with the larger Adas *hesed* community. We are always looking for new opportunities to help out, so please reach out to us if you have ideas that would be just right for our group of compassionate, energetic, and eager children. You can contact the *Dubim* team at pkrczr@gmail.com. Thank you!





Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

Sparkling Tales of Once Upon a Time

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



The holiday of *Purim* sparkles like a fairytale—costumes and carnivals; wine and song; and an age-old tale of a foolish king, a brave queen and an evil-plotting courtier. What a perfect month for reading fantasy fiction. The two bewitching books described below—one for adults, one for children—feature Jewish characters and plot elements. Try them with tea and *hamantaschen*.

***SPINNING SILVER* by Naomi Novik**

(Published for adults, but enjoyable for ages 13 and up)

Spinning Silver is a richly creative retelling of the *Rumpelstiltskin* fairytale. In medieval Eastern Europe, a young Jewish woman, Miryem Mandelstam, lives with her loving parents at the edge of a small, non-Jewish village. Miryem's father Josef is the local moneylender but he is not very good at it. Softhearted and timid, Josef is reluctant to ask borrowers to repay their loans, partly in fear of stirring up the village's simmering anti-Semitism. Meanwhile, the Mandelstams slide into desperate poverty. Determined to rescue her family, Miryem begins collecting on the debts, shrewdly demanding goods and services as partial payments. As her success grows, she develops a profitable sideline in selling embroidered finery.

Proud of her business prowess, Miryem casually boasts that she can turn silver into gold. Unluckily, a Stryk king overhears her and takes her boast literally. The Stryk are magical beings of ice from a winter world parallel to the human world; they have a pressing need for gold (albeit not for financial reasons). The Stryk king puts Miryem to the task of changing silver coins to gold ones, setting off a chain of events that allies her with two other resourceful young women—Wanda, a peasant girl seeking escape from her abusive father, and



Irina, the new wife of the kingdom's tsar, who is not what he seems. The Jewish threads of the story—*Shabbat* observances, a joyous wedding *hora*, the bustling Jewish quarter of a large city—are a steady delight, as are Miryem's witty comments and observations.

***SWEEP: THE STORY OF A GIRL AND HER MONSTER* by Jonathan Auxier**
(For ages 8–12)

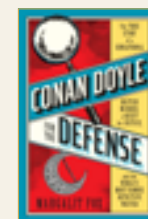
Sweep is an imaginative blend of fantasy and historical fiction, set in Victorian London among chimney sweeps. But these sweeps lead miserable lives; they are not the jolly dancers of *Mary Poppins*.

Eleven-year-old Nan Sparrow is indentured to a cruel master chimney sweep appropriately named Wilkie Crudd. Like other master sweeps, Crudd keeps a crew of young children to climb inside cramped, narrow chimneys and scrub them clean. At night, Nan dreams of her life before Crudd, of travelling the country with her beloved guardian, the Sweep, until he mysteriously disappeared when she was six years old.

On a job for Crudd one day, Nan nearly dies in a chimney fire, but is saved when a lump of charred soot in her pocket—a parting gift from the Sweep—magically awakens as the protective golem of Jewish legend. Together, she and the golem hide from Crudd while Nan resourcefully earns their keep. Despite the risk of revealing her whereabouts, Nan organizes a London protest march to call attention to the danger-filled lives of young chimney climbers.

Beyond poverty and child labor, Victorian London suffered from anti-Semitism. Nan's Jewish friend, Esther Bloom, a teacher who schools Nan in golem lore, feels safer keeping her Jewish practices secret from other teachers. Toby, a young Jewish peddler, is attacked by anti-Semitic thugs. Yet despite its dark themes, *Sweep* sparkles with light and wonder—the dazzling view of snowy London from the rooftops; sleeping beneath a canopy of stars; and the deep, abiding love between Nan and her Sweep.

BOOK CHAT



***CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE*
BY MARGALIT FOX**

Sunday, March 31, at 10:00–11:00 am (NOTE NEW DATE)

Join us to discuss this gripping true story of Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, who sought justice for a Jewish immigrant wrongly accused of murdering an elderly Scottish woman.

AUTHOR CHAT



***TRAILBLAZING JOURNALISTS STEPHEN SHEPARD
& 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.



SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Abraham & Anna Nathanson Youth Endowment Fund
In Memory Of: **Stanley Bobb** by Phyllis & Morton Lessans.

Adas Fund
In Honor Of: Our beloved clergy, **Rabbi Holtzblatt & Rabbi Alexander** by Rhoda Baruch.

Anne Frank House Fund
By: Robin & Robert Berman, Steven Weiner, Ralph & Frances Dweck Family Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, Advantage Industries, Inc., Amber Cottle & Eric Bensky, Ira Berkower & Jackie Levinson, Sander Bieber & Linda Rosenzweig, Martin & Helen Blank, Sandra Braunstein & Samuel Powell, Ben & Shelly Buring, Barry & Carmel Chiswick, Perseus Realty, Diana Conn, Judith Areen & Richard M. Cooper, Stan Cohen & Sue Ducat, Darryl Edelstein & Lynne Hoffenberg, Elise A. Feingold, Joan Fread, Stuart Horn & Marian Fox, Marsha Gentner, Michael & Jinny Goldstein, Edith & Arthur Hessel, Hicks Family Charitable Foundation, Lois Hochhauser, Mark Katkov & Ellen Hamilton, Hazel Keimowitz, Morris & Susan Klein, Edward & Nancy Kopf, June Kress, Stephen & Amy Kroll, Sandra & Stephen Lachter, Debra & Josh Levin, Robert & Jane Loeffler, Gary & Ellen Malasky, Matthew Mariani & Meredith Josephs, John Mintz & Emily Yoffe, Adrian & Annette Morchower, Alfred Munzer & Joel Wind, Robert Peck & Lynn Palmer, Geraldine Pilzer, Myra & Larry Promisel, Rhoda Ritzenberg & Kenneth Heitner, Carolyn Rogers, Michael Rosman & Jessica Kasten, David Rubashkin & Pamela Karasik, Debra Rubin, Stanley M. Salus, Allen & Etta Sandler, Myrna Seidman, Howard J. Shatz, Rennie Sherman & William Willis, Frederic & Felisa Siegel, Mark & Nancy Silverman, Harold & Carrie Singer, Daniel & Julia Small, Ruth Snyder, Elizabeth & Dan Sokolov, Susan Shirley & John Speaks III, Richard & Irene Spero, Celia & Stuart Steingold, Ari Strauss, Fred Weiss & Martha Taft, Sanford & Beth Ungar, Charles & Nancy Wolfson, Paul Zador.
In Honor Of: **Adina Mendelson** by Rhoda Baruch. **Joy Midman** by Patricia Johnston. **Hazel Keimowitz** by Jessica Keimowitz & Patience Crozier. **Meir Mitelman** by William & Nechama Liss-Levinson. **Seth Rosenthal** by Jeremy & Sandra Rosenthal. **Steney, The Keeper & Bella Zaleznick Graves** by Steven & Caron Zaleznick.
In Memory of: **Albert Buckberg & Fannie Bean** by Gloria Buckberg. **Fannye Lazerow** by Sheryl Fahey & Ken Colling. **Roger B. Hirschland** by Sharon Hirschland. **Joe Berman** by Jonathan M. Levin. **Shia Rosenberg** by Joel, Cynthia, & Renée Rosenberg. **Sophie Silfen** by Jim Williams & Susan Miller.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund
In Memory Of: **Regina K. Friedman** by Judith Friedman.

Bereavement Fund
In Loving Memory Of: **Edith & Jack Green** by Fradel Kramer.
In Memory Of: **Esrael Danziger** by Arnold Danziger. Abraham Tersoff by Susan Tersoff & David Margolies.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation Of: **Cantor Brown's** enrichment of the services & special events by Dr. William & Vivienne Stark.

Charles Pilzer Computer Center
In Memory Of: **Jean Greenberg Fogel** by Geraldine Pilzer.

Congregational Kiddush Fund
In Honor Of: **Emerson Luzzatto** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Anne Luzzatto. Naming of **Amalia Fischer-Lyons-Warren** by Steven Fischer. **Isaac David Begal's** 1st birthday by Kira & William Begal.

Daily Minyan Fund
By: Irene & Richard Spero.
In Honor Of: the birth of Manny Schiffres's grandson, **Raphael Schiffres** by Renée & Roger Fendrich, Sean & Miriam Grogan.
With Thanks For: The daily *minyan* so we could say *kaddish* for our parents by Rhona & David Byer.
In Memory Of: **Mary Povich** by Larry Povich. **Owen Brown** by Janet Scribner. **Arnold Rothstein** by Sheri Brown. **Frederick Sutton** by Jamie & Stuart Butler.

Dan Kaufman Children's Program Fund
In Memory Of: **Dan Kaufman** by Pat Rye & William Spinard.

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MakomDC
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