

Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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& Marisa Goldstein



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

From the President

By Debby Joseph



April showers bring springtime and *Pesach*. It is a time for cleaning out the *hametz* in our lives while anticipating the sunlight, warmth, and possibilities of spring and summer. *Pesach* itself has always challenged me to contemplate the meaning of freedom, as we think about the exodus from Egypt.

The defining moment of our Jewish people-hood is that moment when our ancestors decided to take action and follow Moses. What follows reflects the struggle between what it meant to be free from slavery, and the need to establish rules of conduct and values to guide the growth of this group into a strong nation. I have found that the inherent tension between freedom and restraint promoted in the Torah and Rabbinic tradition that followed to reflect the tension we all experience as we deal with our daily lives.

Here at Adas Israel, one of the ways this tension manifests itself most is through the broad diversity of religious and political beliefs present in our congregation. I celebrate these myriad perspectives and believe that they are what make us the unique congregational community we are. With that comes the challenge of ensuring that we respect our differences and provide a respite from the constant bombardment of partisanship that surrounds us, especially here, inside the Beltway of the Nation's Capital.

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clergy corner



Rabbi Aaron Alexander

April means Passover is coming soon. Too soon, for some of us. But there's still time to do some spiritual, emotional, and physical preparation that isn't just cleaning and kashering. Here are several ideas that I hope can inspire an even more joyous *chag*!

1. Cleaning out the *hametz* (leavening) from your domain.

The tangible representation of this obligation is, well, spring cleaning. We are instructed to remove all traces of leaven from property under our domain before the Passover holiday begins. The Hassidic rabbis expanded our understanding of *hametz* and *matzah* to move beyond the physical representations of each and to include the psychological as well. *Hametz*, leavened food, represents hubris and unhealthy ego, while *matzah*, flat unleavened bread, represents humility and self awareness. Ideally, the period leading up to Passover is a time for deep, serious, religious transformation—*teshuvah*, as it were. Our goal during this period is to rid ourselves of the excessive pride that often consumes us, the inflated ego that interferes with real relationship, and substitute it with modesty, openness, and the ability to see beyond ourselves. Set aside at least five minutes a day to work on yourself. That includes self-introspection, but more important, checking in with those whom you trust to give you an honest, safe, and open critique of how you carry yourself as you navigate life's complexities.

2. Telling the Passover story at your *seder*.

This is the core biblical obligation of the Passover *seder*, as *Exodus 13:8* teaches us: "And you shall tell your child on that day, saying, 'Because of that which God did for me when I went out from Egypt.'" We often rush through this central part of the *seder*. Our tendency is to take turns reading ancient words, paragraph by paragraph, perhaps without much thought (except for thinking about the impending meal). But that is surely not the intent of either the Torah or the brilliant rabbinic artists who composed the *seder*. Ideally, each person should leave the *seder* space having understood, internalized, and personalized the Passover story. A good *maggid* (telling the story) means not leaving until everyone at the table has achieved this goal. It requires some preparation, creativity, and an openness not only to listen attentively to others, but also to communicate, verbally or nonverbally, so that you know your message will be heard.

3. Seeing yourself as if you, too, are leaving slavery for freedom.

A pinnacle moment of every *seder* is the declaration, "Each and every person is obligated to see himself or herself as if he or she had personally left Egypt." This moment often engenders meaningful discussion in its attempt to situate each of us in a specific theological/historical and precarious moment.

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Register Today! The First Night Community Seder Passover 2016/5776, Friday, April 22



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 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. Registration now available online or call Carol Ansell at 202-362-4433. ✨

PASSOVER GUIDE 2016/5776

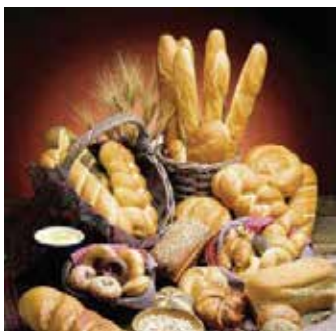
Passover is celebrated this year from **Friday evening, April 22, through Saturday, April 30**. The *sedarim* are held on **Friday and Saturday nights, April 22 and 23**. All cleaning and preparations to make the house *pesachdik* (kosher for Passover) must be completed by **10:00 am on Friday, April 22**. If you have any questions, please consult with the rabbis.

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

- *bedikat hametz*—searching for crumbs of *hametz*
- *bittul hametz*—a formula for renouncing *hametz* inadvertently missed
- *be'ur hametz*—burning *hametz*
- *mehirat hametz*—the sale of *hametz*

Mehirat Hametz

We are not always able to destroy or remove all of our *hametz*. Doing so could be economically disastrous. So the rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale is made of all the *hametz* to a non-Jew in the community, who then sells it back to us after *Pesach*. The *hametz* is then no longer "in our possession." This is normally done through the synagogue for the entire congregation. Please use the form in this issue of the *Chronicle* and **send it to Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith by Tuesday morning, April 19**. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food stuffs; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.



Full Service Schedule *Pesach* 2016/5776

Erev *Pesach*, Friday, April 22

- 7:15 am** *Pesach* Siyyum Service
- 8:00 am** *Pesach* Siyyum Breakfast
- 5:30 pm** *Kabbalat Shabbat* Oneg
- 6:00 pm** *Kabbalat Shabbat*
- 7:00 pm** Adas Community Passover Seder

Day 1, Saturday, April 23

- 9:30 am** Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan Pesach/Shabbat* Service; joined by the Smith Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm** Congregational *Pesach* Kiddush
- 12:45 pm** *Shabbat Mincha* Service

Day 2, Sunday, April 24

- 9:30 am** Combined Smith and TEM *Pesach* Service; *D'var Torah* by Rabbi Holtzblatt
- 12:00 pm** Congregational *Pesach* Kiddush
- 6:00 pm** Evening *Minyan*

Day 3, Monday, April 25

- 7:30 am** Morning *Minyan*
- 6:00 pm** Evening *Minyan*

Day 4, Tuesday, April 26

- 7:30 am** Morning *Minyan*
- 6:00 pm** Evening *Minyan*

Day 5, Wednesday, April 27

- 7:30 am** Morning *Minyan*
- 6:00 pm** Evening *Minyan*

Day 6, Thursday, April 28

- 7:30 am** Morning *Minyan*
- 6:00 pm** Evening *Minyan*

Day 7, Friday, April 29

- 9:15 am** Combined Smith/TEM *Pesach* Service; *D'var Torah* by Rabbi Alexander
- 12:00 pm** *Pesach* Kiddush
- 5:30 pm** *Kabbalat Shabbat* Oneg
- 6:00 pm** Traditional Lay-Led *Pesach/Shabbat* Service

Day 8, Saturday, April 30

- 9:15 am** *Pesach/Shabbat* Morning Service
Yizkor at 11 am
D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf
- 9:30 am** TEM *Pesach/Shabbat* Service;
Yizkor
- 9:30 am** *Havurah Pesach/Shabbat* Service
- 12:00 pm** Congregational *Pesach* Kiddush
- 6:00 pm** *Shabbat Mincha/Maariv* Services

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Bedikat Hametz, Thursday Evening, April 21

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

The search is performed in the following manner:

- a. Place 10 pieces of (visible size) bread in various locations throughout the house.
- b. Recite the following blessing: **Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivonu al biur hametz**, and then proceed (traditionally with a lighted candle, a feather, and a wooden spoon) to look for any leaven that can be found.
- c. The pieces of bread should be gathered in a container, such as a small cardboard box.
- d. After the 10 pieces, and whatever other leavened food, are gathered, recite the following declaration: **"All manner of leaven that is in my possession which I have not seen or have not removed, or have no knowledge of, shall be null and disowned as the dust of the earth."**

Siyyum Bechorim, Friday Morning, April 22

The fast of the firstborn is a time-honored custom that recognizes God's role in history. On the day before Passover, it is customary for the firstborn to fast as an expression of gratitude that he or she, unlike the Egyptians' firstborn, was saved. However, if the firstborn attends a *siyyum* (a public completion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud) on the morning before Passover, he or she is exempted from fasting and may eat. Thus any firstborn who participates in the ceremony may eat. This is known as the *Siyyum Bechorim*. As do many congregations, we hold a *siyyum* (the celebration of concluding a section of the *Mishna*). Our *Siyyum* will take place as part of the morning *minyán* on **Friday, April 22, at 7:15 am.**

Seudat Mitzvah

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

Biur Hametz, Friday morning, April 22

This day should be treated as an ordinary *Erev Pesach* in regard to *biur hametz* (removal of *hametz*). Burning of the *hametz* should be completed **by about 10:00 am**. The stove should be koshered for *Pesach*. All cooking should be done in *Pesach* pots using only *Pesach* utensils. Food required for the first *seder* should be cooked at this time.

Burn your *chametz* at Adas Israel on **Friday, April 22, at 9:15 am** in the parking lot.

First Seder, Friday Night, April 22

Tradition encourages that the *seder* not begin until after sundown.

CANDLELIGHTING TIMES:

Friday, April 22: Light candles at 7:34 pm

Saturday, April 23: Light candles *after* 8:35 pm



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 is locked away in storage for the duration of the festival. This year the sale can be done by 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 19.

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 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 19.

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*.

Name _____

Home Address _____

Business Address _____

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Thursday, April 28: Light candles at 7:40 pm

Friday, April 29: Light candles at 7:41 pm

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

The blessings recited are:

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

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzeevanu l'hadleek ner shel Shabbat v' shel Yom Tov. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to light the Shabbat and festival candles.

And on the first night only:

ברוך אתה יי א-להינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.
Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'hecheyanu, v'kee'manu, v'heegeenu lazman hazeh. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season. ❀

Mark Your Calendars Garden of the Righteous Ceremony Honoring the Memory of Joachim Alexopoulos, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Volos, Sunday, May 22

On Sunday afternoon, May 22, at 4:00 pm, Adas Israel Congregation will honor the memory of His Eminence, Joachim Alexopoulos (1873–1959), Greek Orthodox Bishop of Volos. His courage and faith during World War II were little known until his posthumous recognition in 1997 by the State of Israel, for saving the lives of 700 people who were hidden by the residents of the villages of Mount Pelion. When the Nazis asked him to hand over the list of Jewish residents, he refused, answering, "I am a Jew."

Honored as "Righteous Among the Nations," Father Alexopoulos's name is inscribed in the Holocaust Museum here in Washington and entered on the Righteous Honor Wall at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

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. The entire community is cordially invited to this moving event.

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 Men's Club of Adas Israel and the Peter Dreyer Memorial Endowment Fund. Adas member Judith Strauch, who chairs this program, has dedicated herself to the success of this program for more than two decades. We look forward to seeing you there. ❀



tikkunolam

Sukkot in Spring Honoring Becca Kopf



"Your people will rebuild what has been in ruins, building again on the old foundations. You will be known as the people who rebuilt the walls, who restored the ruined houses" [Isaiah 58:9–12].

Jot down **April 17** on your calendar to remember this year's *Sukkot* in Spring, dedicated this year to the memory of Becca Kopf, daughter of Nancy and Ed Kopf, who died on September 25 at the age of 39. Ed has served on the board and as president at Yachad and has organized our *Sukkot* in Spring activities for more than 10 years.

Over the past 21 years, Yachad has coordinated Jewish volunteers to renovate over 120 homes and other community facilities in the DC area. Adas Israel volunteers work with

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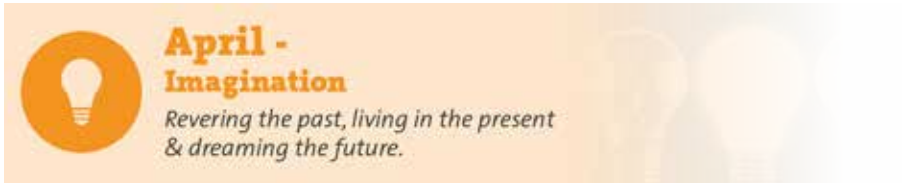
Lomir Ale Zingen Yiddish Sing-Along, April 17



Come join Cantor Arienne Brown and Rabbi David Shneyer on Sunday, April 17, 2:00–3:00 pm, in a sing-along of Yiddish songs, along with poet Myra Sklarew, who will read from her work. This intimate gathering will include Yiddish music and poetry in the original and in translation.

RSVP to admin@am-kolel.org; a \$5 donation at the door is suggested. This event is supported by a partial grant from the Marinus & Minna K. Koster Foundation.

Lomir Ale Zingen in DC is sponsored by the Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community in cooperation with Yiddish of Greater Washington and the Jewish Study Center. ❀



The very first creative words of the Torah are, "let there be." That is the Judaism we live in, explore deeply, and own as an eternal legacy and vision. This month, we'll learn to revere the past, live in the present, and dream the future. If there

was ever a month of learning that could provide you with the skills to own your Torah, this is it.

Register online or by calling Melissa Adler, 202-362-4433, ext. 146.

MakomDC Learning:



The Midrash: The Creative Heart-Center of Judaism With Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 @ 10:30 AM

Explore the month's theme through the *Midrash* with Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf.



"Open Beit Midrash Night" in the Biran Beit Midrash

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 @ 7:15 PM

The "Open Beit Midrash" is a place to sit across the table from fellow seekers and explore the rich, sophisticated, sacred texts that have animated our people for

so many years. We'll question together, grapple together, and passionately talk through the uplifting and challenging ideas these ancient and modern texts provide. Jewish learning has the potential to create an unmatched soulful energy. The "Open Beit Midrash" is where that energy is found.



Scholar: Rabbi Benay Lappe

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 @ 7:15 PM

Rabbi Benay Lappe is the founder and *Rosh Yeshiva* of SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva.



Poetry/Torah Slam

TUESDAY, APRIL 19 @ 7:15 PM

The Biran Beit Midrash becomes Adas's version of a coffee house poetry slam. This evening will be a combination of learning, entertainment, and good old fun.



Pesach Prep with Rabbis Alexander & Holtzblatt

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 @ 1:00 PM

Post-kiddush *Halakah* class with Rabbi Alexander. This month Rabbi Alexander will explore the ways in which *Pesach* flips the major principles of Jewish law

upside down and inside out, reframing everything we once knew about how the Jewish legal system works.



Religious School Parent Drop-In, Drop-Off

[Insert empty Beit Midrash]

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 @ 10:30 AM

Once a month Religious School parents are given a space to learn on the month's topic. Come in, enjoy a cup

of coffee, and explore some traditional and relevant texts on imagination with Rabbi Alexander.

Additional Ongoing Learning



Boker Or Shabbat Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

APRIL 2 Rabbi Steinlauf

APRIL 9 Rabbi Holtzblatt

APRIL 16 Rabbi Alexander

APRIL 23 & APRIL 30 NO *Boker Or* (*Pesach* Day 1 & 8)

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



Friday *Parsha* Study with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM

Study a piece of the weekly *parsha* through the eyes of the Hasidic masters. Taste a piece of their Torah and the world from which they

emerged. Among the teachers we will study: Kedushat Levi, Netivot Shalom, Rav Soloveitchik, Noam Elimelech, and the Sefat Emet. ❁

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

The first seder is Friday, April 22. Come in and see our extensive collection of seder plates, matzah holders and covers, haggadot, and children's books about Passover as well as numerous additional items for the holiday.



Gift Shop Hours*:

Sunday–Monday, Wednesday–Friday
9:30 am–12:30 pm

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

**Due to Passover, we will close at noon on April 22, and we will be closed on Sunday, April 24, Friday, April 28, and Sunday, May 1.*

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE
SISTERHOOD CLOSING EVENT,
JUNE 26

sisterhoodnews

Sisterhood in the Community

Sisterhood in the Community, a program begun last year and chaired by **Mary Hammer**, is a series of small, home-based brunches to welcome and get to know new members in a variety of neighborhoods. If you are interested in sponsoring a brunch this spring, please contact Marcy Feuerstein at mfeuerst@hotmail.com or 202-396-1221.

Sisterhood Closing Event

Join the Board!!!

The Sisterhood year is swiftly moving toward its end, and we are planning a unique and provocative program for our June 26 closing event. All will be revealed shortly, but know this—it will be interesting and irresistible! Also, at that event, attendees will vote on the nominating committee's slate for the Sisterhood Board. There are still some vacancies on the slate, so if you'd like to become more active and contribute to our programs, contact Marcy Feuerstein. We welcome anyone who has an interest in joining the Board.

Torah Fund News



Our own Cantor Arianne Brown dazzled the audience at the March 6 Torah Fund Concert at Har Shalom synagogue in Potomac, MD. Cantor Ari joined with Cantor Henrique Ozur-Bass and other cantors from Seaboard region synagogues in a truly exciting concert. The event also included a pre-Passover wine tasting and a wine and

cheese reception.

Torah Fund Cards Available for all Occasions

The Torah Fund has found a wonderful way for you to support students at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Beautiful Torah Fund greeting cards are now available for special occasions throughout the year. For \$5 each, you may purchase cards for all kinds of *s'machot* (birthdays, anniversaries, *b'nai mitzvah*, just to name a few). We have get-well, *mazal tov*, and condolence cards as well.



Please order Torah Fund cards by sending an e-mail to Torah Fund Chair Alisa Abrams at adasisraeltorahfund@hotmail.com.

It All Starts with YOU, So Join Sisterhood Today

Dues for 5776 (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016) are still being accepted. Send in your membership check payable to *Adas Israel Sisterhood*. Basic Membership: \$36; Contributor: \$54; Patron: \$72; or feel free to contribute any amount above these suggested amounts. Please provide your contact information or use the form included in the late summer mailing, and send it to Treasurer **Dava Berkman**, 2475 Virginia Avenue, NW, Apt. 803, Washington, DC 20037. New Adas Israel members receive a complimentary membership for one year, but we need your contact information to make this happen. For membership questions, call June Kress, 202-316-3439.

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Office Closings

Erev Passover, First Seder

Friday, April 22

Schools/Offices Close at NOON

Passover Days 1 & 2

Saturday & Sunday, April 23 & 24

Schools/Offices Closed

Passover Erev Yom Tov

Thursday, April 28

Schools/Offices Close at 2:00 pm

Passover Days 7 & 8

Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30

Schools/Offices Closed

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Sisterhood Co-Sponsors Book Chat, Sunday, April 10

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Set during WWII, this Pulitzer Prize-winning historical novel follows the parallel stories of two young people, a girl in France and a boy in Germany. The story is not explicitly Jewish, but we plan to look at it through a Jewish lens. Copies are available at the DC and Montgomery County public libraries and through booksellers.

Questions? Contact Robin Jacobson at librarian@adasisrael.org.

Women's League Offers Special Online Learning Workshops

Women's League provides fabulous customized training on a variety of topics covering every area of Sisterhood business and leadership development. Recognizing that the great training it offers isn't always convenient to attend, Women's League created the concept of Distance Workshops, which are presented online. In addition to saving you time and money, you will be able to apply your new knowledge in your Sisterhood immediately!

There is no charge, but pre-registration is necessary. Participation is limited to members of Women's League. For additional information, call 212-870-1263.

Three online workshops we be held this spring:

- **April 4:** Conflict Resolution
- **May 18:** Public Policy and Social Action
- **June 6:** What's in Your Marketing Toolbox? ✨

lifecycle Milestones

Births

Jackson Abraham Flynn, son of Lara Kitain, was born January 24.

Ora Wells Satin, daughter of Michael Satin & Katie Wells, was born February 13.

We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.

B'nai Mitzvah



Judah Kirschenbaum, April 9

Judah, son of Michelle Buzgon and Jay Kirschenbaum, is a seventh grader at Kingsbury Day School. He began his Jewish education in the Kangaroo class at Gan HaYeled and has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten. He shares his *simcha* with his brother, Simon, and his grandparents,

Susan and Louis Kirschenbaum and Marcia and Bernerd Buzgon. For his *mitzvah* project, Judah is organizing a sock drive and a baking project for the men, women, and children who are served by So Others Might Eat (SOME). There will be a sock collection bin at Adas for those who wish to donate.



Emily Jane Perelman, April 16

(Sixth & I Historic Synagogue)

Emily, the daughter of Joshua and Stacey Perelman, and the granddaughter of John and Renny Kossow, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She began her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, following in the footsteps of her sister, mother and grandfather. Emily is a fifth-generation member at Adas Israel; the first was her great-great-grandfather, Elias Gelman. Emily shares her *simcha* at the Sixth and I Historic Synagogue with her sisters, Abby and Serena.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Deborah Jacobs

Pearl Kruger

Sonia Atlas Levin

Lillie Wolloch

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Ruth Grayson, mother of Stephen Grayson

Ludwig "Larry" Hiss, father of Laura Ginns

Marcia Saft, mother of Melissa Moskowitz

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 Carole Klein. 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

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your interest and encourage your participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone whom you think might be interested in participating in this important work, please feel free to call Edie Hessel (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the *Tahara* Committee.



Adas Israel Community Mikvah

Our *mikvah* is a sacred space where Jews can mark life transitions with powerful physical ritual. Immersing in a *mikvah* connects the body to the water cycle of our planet and to the sources of life. People visit our *mikvah*

to observe the *mitzvah* of monthly immersion; to celebrate *s'machot*; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom, or *bar* or *bat mitzvah*; to convert to Judaism; and to prepare physically and spiritually for *chagim*. To learn more about our *mikvah* or to schedule an appointment, contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah. ❁

Kol HaMayim— Voice of the Waters



A Personal Mikvah Experience

By Mackenzie Freudenrich

When I immersed in the *mikvah* for the purpose of my conversion on the first day of *Adar* last year, it was truly a transformative experience. I had spent several years studying for this day, and seeing my rabbi with tears in his eyes at my *Beit Din*, having my friends surround me with love and warmth as the Torah was placed in my arms, and hearing myself be called Zipporah bat Avraham v'Sarah for the first time are memories I will never forget and always hold dear.

However, my experience would not have been the same if it were not for the *mikvah*. When I emerged from the water and looked at my smiling face in the mirror after reciting the blessings, I saw the face of a Jewish woman staring back at me. It is because of this incredible experience that I chose to intern at the Adas Israel Community *Mikvah*. It is such a privilege to be able to work with Naomi Malka to facilitate positive and progressive experiences surrounding the *mikvah* and to educate others about this beautiful, embodied Jewish ritual.

Mikvah is a powerful tool for change, both on a personal level for the purpose of one's own observance and in the Jewish community as a whole. Embracing *mikvah* encouraged me to practice Jewish ritual with a kind of *kavanah* that had previously escaped me. I am so excited to have the opportunity to assist and encourage others in this journey. ❁



Interfaith Family Meet Up at Return Again to Shabbat Friday, April 8

Join us for Return Again to *Shabbat* on Friday, April 8, at 6:30 pm, when we welcome interfaith couples and young families to attend, whether members of the congregation, have children in Gan HaYeled, or are simply interested in learning more about being part of the Adas community. Join us for a reflective journey into the power of *Shabbat* featuring seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song.

A community *Shabbat* dinner for all follows the service at 7:30 pm. We will have specific tables set aside for interfaith families and couples at the dinner so you'll have an opportunity to connect with one another. Please register online at www.adasisrael.org/musicalmoments or call 202-362-4433. ❁

YP Shabbat Service



On Saturday morning, April 16, join the Adas Young Professionals for *Shabbat* morning services in the Biran

Beit Midrash. This will be a warm and soulful morning lay-led by young professionals—with some assistance from the Adas clergy. The sermon will be given by Stoch Cotler, chief executive officer of Bend the Arc. This service is a wonderful opportunity for the different generations of Adas members to come together for a communal celebration of *Shabbat*. Expect some different tunes and new voices to enliven this exciting *Shabbat* experience.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 17 Adar II 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	28 18 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Mikvah Mondays 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	29 19 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm Paula Shoyer Book Event (Offsite) 7:30 pm Ben Shalva Book Release	30 20 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	31 21 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1 22 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander 6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinner	2 PARSHAT SHEMINI/SHABBAT PARAH 23 Adar II 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavua Class Parshat Shemini/Shabbat Parah 9:30 am Shabbat Awakening 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:15 pm MakomDC: Post-Kiddush Passover Discussion 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 8:00 pm GPA Gala/Havdalah 8:14 pm Havdalah
3 24 Adar II 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:30 am JMCW Class—Wise Aging 10:30 am MakomDC: Beginners Hebrew 10:30 am The Midrash w/ R. Steinlauf 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 12:15 pm Machar '70s Tie-Dye Party 4:00 pm Concert w/ Levine School of Music: Tradition & Rebellion 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	4 25 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	5 26 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:15 pm MakomDC: Open Beit Midrash 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	6 27 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Mikvah 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Synagogue Skills Class 7:00 pm Jewish Study Center Classes 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class: Israel 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	7 28 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Yad B'Yad: Toddler Drop-in Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	8 29 Adar II 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt 7:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Return Again Shabbat Dinner	9 PARSHAT TAZRIA/SHABBAT HACHODESH/ ROSH CHODESH NISAN Nisan 1 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavua Class 9:15 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bar Mitzvah: Judah Kirschenbaum 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 8:20 pm Havdalah
10 Nisan 2 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:00 am Adas Book Chat 10:30 am MakomDC: Beginners Hebrew 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 5:30 pm JUFJ Labor Seder 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	11 Nisan 3 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	12 Nisan 4 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group 6:00 pm AJC Ambassador's Seder 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:15 pm MakomDC: Rabbi Benay Lappe	13 Nisan 5 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Mikvah Guide Training 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 7:30 pm Josh Kulp Class	14 Nisan 6 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Yad B'Yad: Toddler Drop-in Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	15 Nisan 7 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:00 pm Young Family Happy Half-Hour 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith 6:15 pm Young Family Shabbat Dinner	16 PARSHAT VAYIKRA/SHABBAT ZACHOR Nisan 8 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavua Class Parshat Metzora/Shabbat HaGadol 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; w/ Rabbi Alexander; D'var Torah by Stosh Cotler 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm MakomDC: Pesach Prep 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 8:27 pm Havdalah
17 Nisan 9 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:30 am MakomDC: Beginners Hebrew 10:30 am MakomDC: Parent Drop In 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 12:00 pm Sukkot in Spring 2:00 pm Lomir Ale Zingen, a Yiddish Singalong 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	18 Nisan 10 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	19 Nisan 11 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:15 pm MakomDC: Poetry/Torah Slam 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	20 Nisan 12 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Work Out 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	21 Nisan 13 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Yad B'Yad: Toddler Drop-in Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	22 EREV PESACH Nisan 14 7:15 am Pesach Siyyum Service 8:00 am Pesach Siyyum Breakfast 9:15 am Burning of the Chametz 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm Adas Community Passover Seder 7:00 pm Adas Community Passover Seder Babysitting	23 PESACH DAY 1 Nisan 15 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Pesach/ Shabbat Service; joined by the Smith Sanctuary 12:00 pm Congregational Pesach Kiddush 12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 8:34 pm Havdalah; Light Candles after 8:35 pm after 7:34 pm
24 PESACH DAY 2 Nisan 16 9:30 am Combined Smith and TEM Pesach Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt 12:00 pm Congregational Pesach Kiddush 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	25 Nisan 17 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Mikvah Mondays 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	26 Nisan 18 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	27 Nisan 19 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	28 Nisan 20 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Yad B'Yad: Toddler Drop-in Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	29 PESACH DAY 7 Nisan 21 9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Pesach Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Pesach/Shabbat Service	30 PESACH DAY 8 Nisan 22 9:15 am Pesach/Shabbat Morning Service; Yizkor at 11 am; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am TEM Pesach/Shabbat Service; Yizkor 9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service 12:00 pm Congregational Pesach Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 8:41 pm Havdalah

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

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

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM): Every *Shabbat* morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around

10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full *P'sukei D'Zimrah* (introductory Psalms), *Shacharit*, and *Musaf*, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a *d'var Torah*. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org.
Havurah Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A *kiddush* follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.
Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot *Shabbat* for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters

or Rabbi Ben Shalva. *Netivot*, for students in grades K–3, is led by Linda Yitzchak or Allison Redisch. Junior Congregation, for grades 4–6, is led by Yoni Buckman and teenage *madrichim*.
'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).

April Religious School Calendar

3: Grade 1 *Yom Shabbat*
10: Grade 3 *Siddur* Cover Project
17: Grade 6 Model Seder, Parent Sunday in the *Beit Midrash*
24–May 2: Passover Break
May 3: Classes Resume

April Youth Services

2: Tot *Shabbat*, *Netivot*
9: Tot *Shabbat*, *Netivot*, Junior Congregation
16: Tot *Shabbat*, *Netivot*

Upcoming Youth Events:

Sunday, April 3: *Machar*'70s Tie-Dye Party, Youth Lounge, 12:15–2:30 pm
Sunday, April 17: USY & *Kadima* Kings Dominion Day (date changed from April 10)

Enjoy the Moss Haggadah A Masterpiece in the Biran Beit Midrash Window

The *Moss Haggadah* is one of the most creative among the more than 3,000 editions



of the *Haggadah*. David Moss, who now lives in Israel, and is known worldwide as a Jewish calligrapher, made every page a unique artistic rendering. Drawing both on the text and its interpretations, he made the beautiful *Haggadah* exquisite, evocative, and unique. The quality of his work makes it a source of study as well inspiration.

Adas Israel is fortunate to have acquired one of the *Moss Haggadot* through the generosity of Dr. Clement and Sandra (z"l) Alpert. It is currently on display in the museum case opposite the rabbis' offices in a specially designed display case. The open pages are changed periodically to allow viewers to see and appreciate this wonderful creation.

We thank Clem and Sandra (z"l) for enabling us to celebrate Passover in such a beautiful way.

educationupdate

From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum



As *Pesach* approaches, we turn our attention to our kitchens and our houses, cleaning, scrubbing and inspecting as we remove all traces of *hametz* from our homes. Although to varying degrees, we give a different kind of energy and focus to this project, unlike the way we think about our living space during the rest of the year. And once the seemingly epic task of removing the *hametz* is finished, it could be easy to declare ourselves ready for *Pesach*. But the work is not done yet.

Our sages teach us that *hametz* can be seen as a symbol of the *yetzer hara*, our evil inclination, and that we must also inspect those pieces of ourselves that need work and attention. While *heshbon hanefesh*, accounting of the soul, is the deep self-reflection we think of in connection with *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, *Pesach* is also a time to do our own internal spring cleaning and rid ourselves of our "spiritual *hametz*."

As we give our time and effort to thoroughly washing parts of our kitchen and homes that do not normally receive that kind of attention, and we search for crumbs deep into the dark corners that rarely see the light of day, so, too, must we look into our own dark corners and give our less appealing parts some consideration. What do we need to work on? Where have we strayed from our best selves? How have we been affected by ego, pride, and jealousy? When have we drifted away from people we love or missed opportunities to create meaningful relationships?

This, too, as much as the cleaning of our homes, is the work of preparing for Passover. As we ready ourselves to relive the transition from enslavement, we should take this opportunity to lift up and then let go of the things we want to leave behind as we start the walk to freedom. *Chag Sameach!* ✨

From the Narrow Straits

The redemption of the Israelites from Egypt was peppered with resistance: Moses resisted being chosen to lead, the Israelites resisted the leadership of Moses, and the journey through the wilderness drew out a recently enslaved people's fear. Progress was met with complaints of, "We would have been better off . . ." and "Are we there yet?" But in spite of the stubbornness and infidelity of a wandering people, Moses pushed the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land.

The story of the Exodus was of swift redemption through fantastical miracles. And while that can be challenging to connect to, the story reflects a subtle truth of the Divine force in the world. The *Zohar* explains the meaning of the Hebrew word *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) as a narrow place, and thus the journey out of Egypt was one of transition from the narrow to the expansive. While this can be difficult to see in the world today as we get swept up in the moments of the everyday, the world is certainly progressing steadily, and we currently live in a healthier, wealthier, more educated, and more connected time.

It's important to appreciate the state of the world today, to feel the comfort of *dayeinu*—it is enough. But it is equally important to be partners with the Divine force for progress and to push ourselves to improve the world, continuing the trend from the narrow to the expansive. We live in a beautiful time, and the *Pesach seder* is a special moment for gratitude. However, the *Pesach seder* is also a time to remember that the beauty of the world requires our unrelenting effort. May we all continue to grow and lift others up with us in our journeys from *Mitzrayim* to an expansive reality.

Chag Sameach!

—Yoni Buckman, Youth & Family Educator ✨



Youth Update

Join us this April for some great Youth@AI programming! Here's what we have ahead of us:

On Sunday, April 3, *Machar@AI* will enjoy an afternoon of hanging with friends and designing clothes. Far Out! Bring a white T-shirt and wear a headband for this totally rad afternoon of pizza, tie-dying, jiving to groovy music, and more. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, April 17, is Seaboard USY & *Kadima* Kings Dominion Day! Join over 250 USYers and *Kadimaniks* for a day of fun at Kings Dominion! Buses will depart from central areas across the region at approximately 8:30 am and will return at approximately 7:00 pm. Sixth & seventh graders will be escorted around the park with staff, and eighth–12th graders will have check-in times and will be provided with an emergency contact number to reach a USY staffer in the park at any time if needed.

We will eat lunch all together in a Kings Dominion Pavilion. Participants will be asked to bring a *pareve*/dairy lunch with them. This day of fun is only \$77. Transportation and your admission are included. Please visit www.seaboardusy.org to register online by April 4. Questions? Call 301-838-7695 or e-mail bloch@uscj.org.

To register for all Youth@AI events, visit www.adasisrael.org/youth and click on the registration link. And remember to check out our website, www.adasisrael.org/youth, to stay up to date on current events, check out pictures from previous events, and view our 2015–2016 Youth@AI Calendar. Always feel free to reach out to us for any questions at Youth@adasisrael.org. ✨

Gan HaYeled

April showers may prompt one to think of planting, and that's certainly the case here at the Gan. Our parsley has been growing since *Tu B'Shevat* for our *sederim* at home, but we are also starting seedlings in the STEAM room. The STEAM room is where the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math) combine with art to enhance the learning experience for all of our children. The link to Teacher Daniel's STEAM room blog is on the Gan home page.

Spring Renewal!

Spring is also a time of fresh growth and renewal—and it's time to renew your application to the Gan (or apply fresh!). Offering part-day, part-week, and full-day/12-month options, the Gan has programs to meet almost any schedule. Make the Gan your choice for high-quality Jewish preschool. Visit our website (www.adasisrael.org/gan) to learn more and to register online!

Sweet Summertime

It's April, but it's NOT too late to register for Sweet Summertime! This camp program is available for two-week sessions beginning June 20 and running through August 12. To register, visit the Gan website, adasisrael.org/gan. ✨



From the President

continued from page 2

For this reason, it is essential that our committees have broad representation of congregants performing the work of the congregation. Our Nominating Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Goodell, has used criteria identified by the Board to assist it with selecting a slate of 10 nominees to replace one-third of the Board of Directors as is done annually. This year it also has nominated a President-Elect. The Board has created a list of criteria, including experience in various synagogue committees and functions, to ensure that our diverse membership is reflected. Our new members will join a Board that has been working on balancing its members' personal preferences with decisions that promote the greater good of the congregation. We are continuing to explore the tension between the apparent power to influence others with the humility to listen and respond to the needs of our members, which is what we see as our ultimate responsibility.

We look to the lessons of our tradition to assist us in finding the right balance among listening to, responding to, and reflecting on all who come to find a home at Adas Israel, and ensuring that it will provide the sanctuary we need it to be. I wish you all a *Chag Pesach Sameach!* ✨

Yom Huledet Sameach, Clem! Very special birthday for a very special member!



We want to wish a special congregant a happy milestone birthday; Clem Alpert will turn 104 on April 23. As many of you know, Clem has been an incredible leader of and *mensch* for

the Adas community for many years. May he have much strength, joy, and happiness as he celebrates his birthday!

Anne Frank House Update



Anne Frank House & its residents have much to be grateful for—particularly for the continuing support & generosity of Adas

ANNE FRANK HOUSE Israel congregants. We are also most appreciative of the clergy & staff of Adas Israel for their continuing special support of Anne Frank House. Finally, we thank our other friends, including the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital community.

These Adas Israel members have made contributions of \$250 or more in 2015 to

Anne Frank House: Rhoda Baruch, Eric Bensky & Amber Cottle, Sander & Linda Bieber, Joel F. Brenner, Alan & Nancy Bubes, Frances Burka, Maria Burka, Rose Burka (z"l), Richard M. Cooper & Judith Areen, Scott E. Dreyer, Sue Ducat & Stan Cohen, Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz, Marian Fox & Stuart Horn, Steven & Jane Gilbert, Laura & Jonathan Ginns, Sylvia Greenberg, Neal & Ava Gross, Kenneth Heitner & Rhoda Ritzenberg, Harriet & Arthur Isack, Lorna Jaffe, Sherry Kaiman, Hazel & Robert Keimowitz, June Kress, Sarah & Adam Levitin, Martin Lewin, Carol Margolis & Richard Bernstein, Matthew Mariani & Meredith Josephs, Clifford & Tammy Mendelson, Jennifer & Daniel Mendelson, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Alfred Munzer & Joel Wind, Lawrence & Melanie Nussdorf, Jack & Lovell Olender, Lydia & Sandy Parnes, Edna & Larry Povich, Seth Rosenthal & Stephanie Robinson, Gerald & Kathy Sandler, Steven & Lisa Schwat, Julia & Daniel Small, Irene & Richard Spero, Alan Strasser & Trisha Hartge, Shira Stutman & Russell Shaw, Peter Sufrin, Marilyn & Stef Tucker, Beth & Sanford Unger, Kathryn Waldman, Marvin Weissberg & Judith Morris, and Gail & Robert Wilensky..

Additional 2015 supporters: Joseph Berman & Marsha Gentner, Susan Berman, Richard Bernstein, R. Elizabeth Brenner-Leifer, Jim Bingham, Heather L. Burns, David & Judy Cohen, Kimberly Cox, Creative Laundry Systems, Inc., Ellen Ficklen, Dykema Gossett, Nancy Gould, Max Kahn, Mark Kessler, Steven Laufer, Jane & Robert Lewit, Alan Lipsitz, Sheila & Roger Meyer, Penan & Scott, P.C, Michael Rosman & Jessica Kasten, Gene Santomartino, Martha Taft, Rachel Wainer, Water Management, Inc., and Paul Zador.

2015 miniwalk, dance-a-thon, corporate sponsors, and foundations supporting our work: Aeroseal Windows & Storefront, Ben Yehuda Pizza, *Bethesda Magazine*, Bonstra/Haresign Architects, CBRE, DMBC Design LLP, Ralph & Louie Dweck, Goulston Storrs, The Greysteel Company, Himmelfarb Commercial Inc., Ingber Dental, McNulty Mechanical LLC, Moti's Market, Sandy

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tikkunolam *continued from page 5*

Sukkot in Spring *continued from page 5*

trained Yachad staff to tackle problems in substandard housing, ranging from painting, yard work, cabinet repair, and flooring to outside wall plumbing and tiling. Special skills are **not required**, just a desire to help others by picking up a paintbrush or pulling weeds. Volunteers generally commit to a morning or afternoon shift (9:00 am–1:00 pm or 12 noon–4:00 pm) though some enjoy helping out all day! Yachad has not yet identified a specific neighborhood for our work this spring, but the homes are always within a reasonable distance from Adas and accessible by public transportation.

To volunteer, please contact Ellen Winter at eswinter7@gmail.com and provide the following information: (1) name; (2) cell phone number; (3) shift desired (am, pm, full day); and (4) transportation needs. Please also share special skills (e.g., light carpentry, electrical work, plumbing), if any, so Yachad can determine where our volunteers will have the most impact. It will be a great day to help out our community and honor the memory of Becca, who was always passionately engaged in programs that made a difference in the lives of people.

A Bit About Becca

Becca, like her father and mother, was engaged in programs that made a difference in the lives of people. While at Columbia University, Becca trained public school students in Harlem to become peer mediators and taught conflict avoidance and resolution. At this Peace Games program, she also discovered her skills as a not-for-profit fundraiser. After working at the Foundation Center in New York, Becca moved to Chicago, where she was highly regarded in development, communications, and strategy work, first for the Great Books organization, followed by Communities in Schools of Chicago and Citizen Schools. Her passion was creating opportunities for kids living in the inner city to have a real shot at a good education through a safer environment and adequate resources and support services. At the time of her death, Becca was Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations at WTTW, Chicago public broadcasting, where she helped launch new PBS national nature programming for children and the station's community engagement efforts. Becca lived well and achieved a "good name"—a *Shem Tov*. May her memory be for a blessing. ❀

Parlor Concert at Somerset House with Cantor Ariane Brown



Celebrate spring and *Pesach* with Cantor Ari and your neighbors at the Somerset House on **Thursday, April 21, 11:00 am–12:30 pm**. Cantor Ari will delight you with a variety of songs, including Broadway show tunes, operettas pieces, and Israeli

music. After the mini-concert, please join us for refreshments and schmoozing with your neighbors. ❀



Religious School Students Join with Reading Partners

For the second half of this school year, Adas Israel fourth graders in the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School are partnering with two Reading

Partners schools, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and Malcolm X Elementary School, both located in SE DC, close to the Adas Israel Cemetery. Partnership will include education, advocacy, and philanthropy. We are anticipating that this will be an ongoing and growing relationship with Reading Partners. The fourth-grade teachers are excited to embark on this project with their students, and we look forward to evaluating our impact at the end of the year.

Ezra Pantry Shelves Want Your *Hametz!*



As Passover approaches, please remember to fill the Ezra Pantry shelves with your unwanted *hametz*. These food items can make a huge difference in someone's life. In fact, consider taking this opportunity to increase your *tzedakah* donations by purchasing food for the Pantry shelves. Needed pantry items include canned

meats and fish, peanut butter, and beans (low sodium); pasta, macaroni and cheese, grains, canned soups and vegetables, fruits and juices (low sodium and low sugar); cereals and snacks; and condiments, including oils, sauces, and dressings (low sodium and low sugar). Industrial and household sizes are welcome. The Ezra Pantry Passover Food Drive will collect food until **Wednesday, April 21.**

To make your contributions go even further all year long, put a carton in the back of your car and fill it. SOME participants thank you!

Volunteers Needed for Second 'One Congregation, One Family' Team

Interested in being part of an exciting new initiative in our community to help a young family rise up from poverty? Join fellow Adas members and become part of a pioneering Adas Israel Mentor Team and work to help a family emerge from homelessness to hope with dignity.



One Congregation, One Family (OCOF) is an interfaith initiative that matches families with volunteer mentoring groups (faith teams) from different congregations around the city. Adas Israel is building on its successful experience with a delightful family seeking to better itself with a second volunteer mentoring group. The team will consist of four to six members who will help to promote life skills and offer the care and encouragement a family needs to foster personal and economic growth as it transitions from homelessness to stable housing and an improved quality of life.

We will offer help with budgeting, parenting skills, job networking, family literacy, nutrition and linkages to ongoing services in the community. More important, we will help create supportive relationships to enable acts of lovingkindness.

This is a commitment of time and skills, not money. It is a commitment that is modest but could have valuable long-term benefit.

For more information contact Joel Fischman (fischman@comcast.net) or Social Action Chair Jamie Butler (Butler364@aol.com). ❀



Good Deeds Day, 2016 Sunday, April 10

Join the Greater Washington community, along with 930,000 volunteers from around the world, in a day of service. Adas Israel will have a project with We Are Family, an organization that serves more than 600 seniors in the Shaw, North Capitol Street, Adams-Morgan, Petworth, and Columbia Heights neighborhoods. We Are Family brings advocacy, services, organizing, and companionship into the homes of the elderly, while helping to build friendships across boundaries like race, class, religion, age, culture, and sexual orientation.

Our event on Sunday afternoon, April 10, 2:00–5:00 pm, in Columbia Heights, DC, will involve volunteers unloading, organizing, and packing food items into grocery bags for delivery to seniors at a later date. From 4:00 to 5:00, small groups of volunteers will visit local seniors.

For more information, contact Rachel Rosenthal at rachel.rosenthal@gmail.com.

Anne Frank Update, continued from page 14

Spring Bank, Urban Investment Partners, and West Financial Services, Inc.

Additional 2015 foundation sponsors: Hicks Family Charitable Foundation, Share Fund, and Isador & Bessie Turover Philanthropic Fund.

We thank all of you for helping us continue to be an important resource in combating homelessness in the Washington, DC, community. From our "house" to yours, warmest wishes for a happy and meaningful *Pesach*.

To make a contribution to Anne Frank House, please send your check to: Anne Frank House, Inc. c/o Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec Street, N.W., Washington DC 20008, or visit our website, theannefrankhouse.org. ❀

Ma Tovv: Stephen Swern and Marisa Goldstein

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

What brought you to the DC area?

Steve: I came down to the DC metro area to go to the University of Maryland at College Park. I chose that school because of its strong engineering program and lively Jewish community. My older sister was already living in Washington, so I also felt comfortable moving down here with family nearby. After college I got a job in the area, and seven years later the DC area has become home.

Marisa: I also came to the area to go to the University of Maryland. I started my master of public policy program in the fall of 2009, so Steve and I just missed each other. DC is obviously a great place to be if you're interested in policy, so I planned to stick around after graduation.

Why did you choose Adas Israel as your Jewish community?

S: I started coming to some YP events like Shir Delight in my single years and slowly built up to *Shabbat* morning services. There are many similarities between Adas and the *shuls* I went to when I was younger, so I felt pretty comfortable here. When Marisa and I were dating, we started coming here more regularly and engaging with the community. We became regulars in the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*, where the rich, lay-led *davening* provided the meaningful experience we were looking for in our Judaism. I picked back up *leyning* from the Torah, which I used to love when I was younger but hadn't found the opportunity to do it in years.

M: I grew up in central Delaware where the Jewish community is very small. Coming to Adas and seeing everything it had to offer—all the different services, formal and informal education offerings, opportunities for *Tikkun Olam*, and the community itself was a whole new experience for me.

You've been getting more involved at Adas. Why do you think it's important for Young Professionals to be active?

S: For all the reasons that Marisa listed about what brought her to Adas (and more), this is an incredibly vibrant community. That said, it takes a lot of work to make everything Adas is and everything the community wants it to be a reality. DC can be a transient place so it's understandable that some young professionals might not be sure if they're going to put down roots here, but we think it's important to find a way to get involved that makes sense for you. Through Adas, we've built relationships within the *shul* and within the larger DC community. We've served as *davening* coordinators in the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*, helped to build the *shul's sukkah*, and participated in service projects, but there's always more to do. For a big community like Adas, it can be overwhelming as a newcomer, but finding ways to get involved can help create personal connections and make you feel more at home. We would welcome the opportunity to chat with other YPers or new members about our experience

and offer ways to help them find their place in the *shul* and the community.

What are some of your favorite childhood memories of growing up in a Jewish household?

S: My cousins and grandparents lived close by, so we would all be together for most of the holidays. It was a pretty musical household, so when my brother and I weren't playing holiday songs for the family on the violin or saxophone, we would all be singing together. On *Hanukkah* we would spend the whole afternoon singing along to tapes of holiday music and Israeli folk songs while eating too many *latkes* and losing *dreidels* under the couch. It was also a remarkable experience to grow up in a town like Teaneck, where the social norm was to roam from house to house all *Shabbat* afternoon to meet up with friends (and be fed by their loving mothers).

Passover is coming up at the end of this month. What traditions do you have for your seder and what are some of your favorite kosher-for-Passover dishes?

Our families have their own traditions that we grew up with, but we're starting to build our own traditions as well. For example we're putting together a custom *hagaddah* from various sources that include meaningful excerpts that we hope will lead to a lively *seder* discussion with many tangents. We also have embraced a rule started by friends of ours where we only buy 10 items that are marked Kosher for Passover. Everything else is just fresh produce or items that are unquestionably kosher for Passover. We both love to cook, and this approach forces a "back-to-basics" approach to meal preparation over the holiday. One recipe we discovered this year was green *shakshuka* where you use sautéed spinach instead of tomatoes. It's delicious.

If money weren't an issue, what is your dream vacation?

This is a tough question. We think we would take a tour of Italy. The Amalfi coast would be amazing.

What are some of your favorite things to do in your free time around the DC metro area?

We love to walk or run around the city. We live in Columbia Heights and it's fun to just set out and see where we end up. From heading down to the White House or wandering into embassies along Massachusetts Avenue, there's always something to discover. When it's nice out, we always look forward to *Shabbat* afternoons in Meridian Hill Park with friends, sharing food and tossing around a Frisbee or rugby ball. 🌸



Freedom Illuminated: *The Szyk Haggadah*

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



Dedicated to Joseph Ansell, z"l, renowned Szyk scholar and beloved brother of Adas staff member Carol Ansell.

For an ancient holiday, Passover is extraordinarily focused on the here and now. Lined up on our library's bookshelves, one *haggadah* after another urges us to reimagine the traditional *seder* themes of liberation and freedom within the context of our own lives and times. The *haggadot* ask, "Who are the pharaohs that oppress our lives?" And they challenge us, "What does it mean today to invite 'all who are hungry to come and eat'?"

Arthur Szyk (1894–1951) is an inspiration to anyone seeking to reframe the ancient Passover narrative so that it speaks to contemporary times. *The Szyk Haggadah* (1940) is famous both for stunning artistry and for linking the Passover story with the events of its day. To read about Szyk's art and life, try *Arthur Szyk: Artist, Jew, Pole* (Joseph Ansell), *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* (Steven Luckert), *Freedom Illuminated: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah* (Irvin Ungar), and *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk* (Irvin Ungar). And take a look at the Arthur Szyk Society website (<http://www.szyk.org>). Here are some highlights.

Arthur Szyk

Born in Lodz, Poland, to a middle-class Jewish family, Arthur Szyk (pronounced "shik") studied art in Poland and Paris. He was captivated by older art forms, particularly medieval illumination and Persian miniatures, and began experimenting with modern adaptations. After creating several illuminated books, Szyk turned to political issues, completing in 1928 an illustrated version of *The Statute of Kalisz*, a 13th-century document that guaranteed fundamental rights to Polish Jews. At the London exhibition in 1933, visitors ruefully contrasted the persecution of Jews in Hitler's Germany with the more enlightened treatment of Jews in medieval Poland.

In 1940, Szyk immigrated to the United States, where he was already a celebrated artist. In fact, the Roosevelt White House displayed Szyk's set of miniature paintings, "George Washington and His Times." But during World War II, Szyk turned his talent to producing political cartoons and caricatures that vilified the Nazis and their allies. He was one of the war's foremost political artists, a self-described "soldier in art" whose powerful images appeared in leading newspapers, magazines, and exhibitions.

The Szyk Haggadah

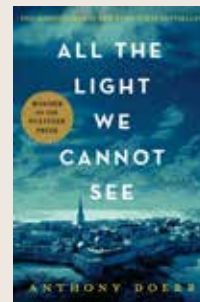
In 1934, a year after Hitler came to power, Szyk began work on the *Haggadah*. To Szyk, Hitler was a modern-day Pharaoh, and the Nazis were the new Egyptians threatening the Jewish people. The luminous illustrations in the *Haggadah* included Egyptian characters wearing swastikas and Eastern European Jews in chains. The *Haggadah's* portrayal of the Four Sons likewise reflected Szyk's worldview. The wise son is a bearded yeshiva student, and the wicked son looks Germanic, with a feathered hat and Hitler-like mustache. Fearing Nazi reprisals, publishers in continental Europe refused to print the *Haggadah*, so Szyk published it in London in 1940. Even so, the publisher forced Szyk to paint over the swastikas.

continued in right column

Book Chat

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

SUNDAY, APRIL 10,
10:00 AM



Join us to discuss this historical novel of WWII, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Questions? Contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).

Books & More continued from left column

Szyk dedicated the *Haggadah* to the reigning British monarch, King George VI, a shrewd choice. England was not only at the forefront of the fight against the Nazis, but also controlled Jewish immigration to Palestine. The dedication page shows weary Jews blocked by a British military ship from castle gates inscribed "Zion"—a plea to the British to allow more Jews to enter Palestine. Tragically, British policy did not change, despite profuse praise for the *Haggadah*. *The Times Literary Supplement* proclaimed it "worthy to be placed among the most beautiful of books that the hand of man has produced." ✨



Adas Israel is proud to present livestreaming of our keynote weekday learning events in the Biran Beit Midrash.

What is livestreaming? If you can't make it to Adas, you'll still be able to connect to a live feed through any computer, laptop or mobile device! Visit adasisrael.org/adaslive to view upcoming broadcast times and recently archived videos.

synagogue contributions

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by Jason & Deborah Samenow. Our upcoming *aufruf* by Elijah Engelbourg & Brianna Kirsh.

Ruby's bat mitzvah by Jonathan Kaplan & Jill Wilkins. **Zoe** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Paul & Emily Landau. **Annie** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Peter Bass,

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Ray Firestone by Ross Firestone. **Hyman S. Bernstein, Freda Bernstein, Ann Bernstein, Helen Handelsman & Leon Handelsman**,

all by Tamara Handelsman. **Masliansky-Bogopulski** relatives by the Nechama Masliansky. **Dr. Harry Aks** by Vicki Perper.

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From the Clergy continued from page 2

But let's be honest for a minute. Most of us probably have a difficult time situating ourselves in something that happened to us personally last week, let alone going back and experientially exiting ancient slavery. Imagining the horror of physical oppression and the tangible taste of freedom is one thing; truly understanding it is another. This calls for thoughtful preparation, and it's easy to misinterpret what is being asked of us here. It isn't that we have to dress up like ancient Israelites and pretend we are enslaved (do that for *maggid!*). Rather, we ought to recognize that each of us knows Egypt all too well. And by Egypt (*Mitzrayim*), we mean its literal translation—narrow, dark and hopeless moments of anxiety. Without having to open up the deepest part of your soul, share with people: What are/were your "Egypt" spaces? In what ways have you created Egypt for others? How might you find redemption? As political philosopher and Princeton professor Michael Walzer recently quipped, "Wherever you live, it is probably Egypt."

4. Inviting guests to the holy space of your holiday. Welcome back Elijah the Prophet!

True liberation will come when we fling our doors open, not only

for Elijah at the very end of our *seder*, but also for the hungry and needy at *seder's* start. "This is the bread of our affliction," we recite, before the famous Four Questions. "Let all who are hungry come and eat." In recreating the first Passover meal, eaten by the Israelites on the eve of their redemption from Egypt, we must diligently adhere to this rule: No person should eat alone. Can we celebrate our release from oppression without remembering to include the outsider, the Jew with no place to go? The Torah tells us, over and over, that because of our enslavement in Egypt, we have an even greater responsibility to the stranger, the "other." You (yes, you!) remember what it's like to feel marginalized, unseen, and completely alone. Therefore, do whatever is in your power to ensure that others never do. Especially on *seder* night.

Try one of these, or try them all. Either way, I wish you a wonderful holiday, filled with family, friends, strangers, and . . . food!



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