

Adas Israel Congregation • Spring 5784

CHRONICLE



Barbie



Esther

The **Perfectly Imperfect**
Nature of Life

PURIM ACCORDING TO **Barbie**

The Perfectly Imperfect Nature of Life

PURIM ACCORDING TO **Barbie**

CHAPTER 1: PERFECTION The Pre-Party (food, fun, pink)

Enter a pink and perfect world, where the grass is always a flawless shade of green and the sky blue.

Here, in this Barbie-inspired utopia, everything from the fake yet yummy food to joyful activities, mirrors our own hidden desires for a world without flaws. As you walk into the building, let yourself be swept away by the illusion of perfection, a playful nod to our own secret yearnings for an ideal life that, deep down, we know doesn't truly exist. This chapter invites you to indulge in the fantasy, to laugh and marvel at the pristine beauty of a life where everything is just... perfect.

CHAPTER 2: REALITY-CHECK The Megillah (purpose, twists, turns)

Within the Megillah, we uncover the layers of real life, much like peeling back the layers of an onion to reveal the complexities within. Just as Barbie steps out of her perfect world into one filled with challenges and unexpected turns, so too will you journey through the story of Esther and our fanciful musical shpiel, finding resonance in its twists and trials. This chapter is an invitation to reflect on the beauty of our courage in the face of struggles, to recognize that life's true essence lies not in its perfection, but in its raw, unedited realness. Prepare to be moved, to see the mirror held up to our own lives, and to find comfort in the shared experience of navigating a world that's a little less perfect than Barbie's.

CHAPTER 3: CATHARSIS The After-Celebration (dance, sing, revel)

Now, we celebrate. Embrace the chaos, the mess, the beauty of being perfectly imperfect. This chapter is a jubilant acknowledgment that life, with all its complexities and challenges, is profoundly beautiful. Just as the Purim story culminates in joyous celebration, so too do we find reasons to dance in the midst of our imperfections. Here, in the catharsis of our shared experiences, we find strength, resilience, and the true joy of living authentically. Let the music play, the costumes dazzle, and the laughter fill the air as we come together to honor the beauty of being uniquely, wonderfully imperfect.

Saturday, March 23

5:45 • Young Family Purim Celebration

7:30 • Building Extravaganza Begins

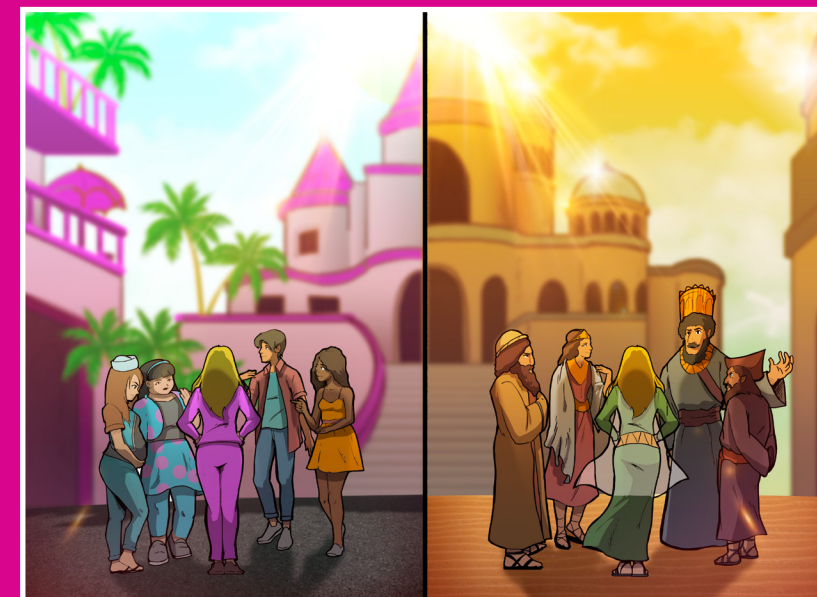
8:15 • Maariv & Megillah

After Megillah • After Party

Sunday, March 24

8:30am • Minyan & Megillah

9:30am–11:30am • Purim Carnival
(with pink beads!)



adasisrael.org/purim

HEARTS IN ISRAEL



We want to begin by thanking this incredible community for the way in which you have shown up over the past several months. It matters. You matter. We matter. And as we've said to you already, we really need each other. The massacre perpetrated in Israel by Hamas on October 7th--and its ongoing effects--has left us shaken in grief. Together we are finding a path forward based on our shared values and obligations.

We also want to offer gratitude for this beautiful community--our Adas community. We come from different backgrounds, we look different from one another, our families are diverse, we are often politically divided on many issues, and more. We love this about Adas. In fact, our diversity often impels our larger, communally-shared moments to feel all the more potent.

Upcoming Events



An Evening of Listening and Processing Together

Tuesday, April 2 at 7pm

On January 9th many of us gathered together at Adas in small, lay-guided, listening circles so that we could share our experiences over the past few months and feel seen and heard. That space was redemptive for so many. We'll do this a few more times throughout the Spring.



Ben Shemen Youth Village: A Legacy of Education and Empowerment with Director Ilana Tischler

Sunday, April 7 at 10am in the Biran Beit Midrash

Join us to hear from Ilana Tischler, who is the Director of Ben Shemen Youth Village in Israel. Since 1927, Ben Shemen has educated the children of Israel. With thousands of graduates including Shimon Peres, Ben Shemen remains one of Israel's largest and most distinguished youth villages.



"A Different Song" with the Jerusalem Youth Chorus and Micah Hendler

Tuesday, April 9 at 7pm

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is a choral and dialogue program for Palestinian and Israeli youth in Jerusalem. Through the co-creation of music and sharing of stories, we empower youth in Jerusalem with the responsibility to speak and sing their truths, as they become leaders in their communities and inspire singers and listeners around the world to work for peace, justice, inclusion, and equality.



Adas Service and Solidarity Mission to Israel

We are sending our Adas Israel delegation to Israel with prayers and love and strength. They will be in Israel with Rabbi Alexander and Beth Heifetz from April 1st - 4th.

OUR VOICES



Clergy Corner

RABBI SARAH KRINSKY

"One of my favorite, and also least-favorite, things about Judaism is that we can't just let sleeping dogs lie."

Every piece of text, every ritual, every practice is-- in the words of first-century sage Rabbi Ben Bag Bag--"turned over and over again," examined and prodded for new and deeper meaning.

The result of this is that even prescriptions as seemingly clear as "משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה" --"when the month of Adar arrives, we increase our joy"-- become fodder for discussion and debate. How much is joy to increase? What kind of joy? Is this command incumbent on all? In particular, there is lengthy discussion about how the command to increase joy in the month of Adar is to be followed in the case of a leap year, a year like 5784 in which the month of Adar occurs not once, but twice. Are we to increase joy both months? Just during Adar I, when we encounter the month for the first time since last year? Just during Adar II, during which Purim is celebrated?

Our Rabbis (unsurprisingly) disagreed on this point, with opinions all along the spectrum. But one Sage offered not only a halakhic ruling, but an underlying reasoning, that is emotionally resonant and profoundly relevant.

כשם שרוב האיסורים בטלים בששים, כך הצורות ועגמות הנפש תהיינה בטלות בששים ימי שמחת אדרים
Just as most forbidden items are nullified by 1/60, so too are sorrows and afflictions of the

soul nullified in the 60 days of Adar's happiness.

The principle being invoked here comes from the realm of kashrut: accidental non-kosher items do not make the entire dish treif so long as the non-kosher item is less than 1/60 of the total volume of what is being cooked. The forbidden item is absorbed by, nestled within, enough kosher quantity that its effect is sufficiently diluted. The analogy notices that years in which we have two months of Adar, such as this one, there are 60 days in which joy is expected--enough joy, it is claimed, that sorrow and challenge can similarly be diluted, or absorbed.

What I love about this ruling is that it admits what we all know to be true: it is impossible to truly command joy, and it is unreasonable to expect that this season will be uniformly and universally a happy one. Life is too messy for that. Our lives are too textured, too full, too diverse for that. So as we enter into this season of Purim and Pesach, our wish for you is not that you experience only joy. That would be naive. Our wish is that you have moments of joy, certainly. And that the inevitable moments of sorrow can be nestled within a community that is here ready to receive you--that our collective joy can be a home to which you can bring whatever it is that these days may hold.



First Night Community Seder

with Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

MONDAY, APRIL 22, AT 6:00 PM

This multi-faceted evening will include insights from world-renowned scholars, small groups for discussion, socializing, and enjoying the meal together. We'll capture all the most important parts of the haggadah together, while also giving each participant space to bring his or her own experiences into the seder. Be prepared for thought-provoking discussion, joyful song, and inspired traditions!

Register online at adasisrael.org/passover.

Biur Hametz

Burning of the Hametz

MONDAY APRIL 22, AT 9:15 AM

VIEW LIVE: [FACEBOOK.COM/ADASISRAELDC](https://facebook.com/adasisraelDC)

Burn your leftover chametz with Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith live on the Adas Facebook page! Hazzan Goldsmith will be reviewing the blessing and customs for this Passover tradition. This day should be treated as an ordinary Erev Pesach in regard to biur hametz (removal of hametz). The 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, and only Pesach utensils should be used. Food required for the first seder should be cooked at this time.

🕒 PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Erev Pesach, Monday, April 22
7:30 am • Shacharit/Siyyum Bechorot
9:30 am • Biur Chametz with Hazzan Goldsmith
5:00 pm • Mincha on Zoom
6:00 pm • First Night Community Seder with Rabbi Krinsky
Register online at adasisrael.org/passover

Day 1, Tuesday, April 23
9:15 am • Combined Shacharit Service, Hallel, and Tal
5:00 pm • Mincha on Zoom

Day 2, Wednesday, April 24
9:30 am • Combined Shacharit Service
11:00 am • Passover Songs and Books
1:00 pm • Mincha

Day 3, Thursday, April 25
7:30 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Mincha/Maariv

Day 4, Friday, April 26
7:30 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Mehirat Hametz

Selling of the Hametz

Please visit adasisrael.org/passover to fill out the Mehirat Hametz form to authorize Hazzan Goldsmith to sell your hametz. We are not always able to destroy or remove all of our hametz. 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. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food items; not dishes or utensils. **Please fill out the online form by April 19.** It is only necessary to sell or destroy food; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

Sefirat HaOmer

The Counting of the Omer

Begins The Second Night of Passover - Find the Sefirat HaOmer Prayer Pages at adasisrael.org/passover Starting on the second night of Passover, we begin to count 49 days, 7 weeks, until we reach the wheat harvest and Revelation at Mount Sinai on Shavuot. We call this time the Sefirat HaOmer or "Counting of the Omer." The Omer is counted each night after the sun goes down; if one forgets, you can say the blessing all day until nightfall the next evening.

Yizkor

Yizkor in Hebrew, means "Remember." In this prayer, we implore G-d to remember the souls of our relatives and friends who have passed on. When we recite Yizkor, we renew and strengthen the connection between us and our loved one, bringing merit to the departed souls. **Adas will hold its virtual Yizkor memorial service on the eighth day of Passover, Tuesday, April 30, following the Shacharit service, at approximately 11:00 am.**

Day 5, Saturday, April 27
9:30 am • Smith Joins TEM Shacharit Service
11:00 am • Mah Tovu
1:00 pm • Mincha

Day 6, Sunday, April 28
7:30 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv/Kabbalat Chag

Day 7, Monday April 29
9:15 am • Combined Shacharit Service and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv/ Kabbalat Chat

Day 8, Tuesday, April 30
9:15 am • Clergy-Led Shacharit/Hallel and Yizkor
9:15 am • TEM Shacharit/Hallel and Yizkor
11:00 am • Passover Songs and Books
1:00 pm • Mincha

Schedule is subject to change. For all current and up to date service schedule times and links, please visit adasisrael.org/passover.

PASSOVER @ ADAS

MONDAY, APRIL 22 - TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Please join us as we celebrate the holiday of freedom, together.

The Adas Fund 2023

In honor of the incredible work of the Adas-member leaders and volunteers of the Anne Frank House.



Thank You to **All** Who Supported Us

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you who supported our wonderful community during this year's Adas Fund drive. Your support has been crucial to operating and serving our members in the way you expect and deserve. For those who have not yet made your contribution, it is not too late. Your contribution of any size will make a big difference to this community. To donate, please contact the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, or visit adasisrael.org/adasfund.

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 David Kass
 Edward Kean & Nancy Worth
 Rob Johnson & Brenna Kearns
 Calanit Kedem
 Alissa Kempler & Chris De Bono
 David Kempler & Candyce Stapen
 Harry Kempler
 Michael & Linda King
 Phillip & Kendra Kinnaird
 Janet Kolodner
 Irene Komor
 Judith Komor
 David Krantz & Lynn Feinberg
 Michael Kurs
 Benn & Charlene Kushner
 Keith & Tamar Levenberg
 Geovanka Levine
 Bruce Lewis
 Zev Lewis
 Cara Liebenson
 Kevin Lieberman
 Michael Lieberman & Sharon Cohen
 Yael Luttwak
 Mike Madden & Mindy Saraco
 Gary & Ellen Malasky
 Myrna Mandlawitz
 Jennifer Marcus
 Aaron & Shoshana Marcus
 David Margolies & Susan Tersoff
 Jonathan Medalia & Barbara Marenus
 Bobby Meehling & Ellen Meltzer
 Michael Stein & Esther Sarah Merves
 Suzanne Meyer
 Adam Meyerson & Nina Shea
 Beth Mlynarczyk
 Lisa Morenoff
 Charles Myers
 Honey W Nashman
 Emma Nechamkin & Graham Haviland
 Judith Neibrief
 Riva & Ellis Nolley
 Francis Noon
 Susan Northcutt
 Ruben Perczek, & Susana Nudelman
 Perczek
 Esther Oakley
 Bridget Ott
 Julia Paley
 Nancy Peck
 Elie Peltz

Brenda Pessin
 Philip & Deborah Pine
 Elliot Popowitz
 Martin Prosky & Ellen Snyder
 Bruce Racond
 Mark Raisher
 Theresa Raphael
 June Reiner
 Arnold Resnicoff
 Gayle Ricevuto
 Daniel Rich
 Frenika & Dameon Rivers
 Carolyn Rogers
 Joshua Packman & Rachel Rosenthal
 Kelila Rotto
 Jessica Rozenbaum
 Debra Rubin
 Alexander Rudee & Shaadee Ahmadnia
 Alan Rukin & Heather Hoffman
 Victoria Saenz Vogl
 Talyah Sands
 Jeffrey Sanoff
 Eric Feinberg & Jennifer Schaffer
 Michelle Schein
 Alexander Schneider & Ariel Wittenberg
 Zak Borovay & Marna Schoen
 Charles Schwartz
 Jason & Rahel Schwartz
 Jeremy Schwartz
 Norah Schwarz
 Linda Segal
 Ben Temchine & Mikaela Seligman
 Michael Sexton
 Carolyn Shanoff
 Stephen & Susana Shapiro
 Cory & Gabrielle Sherb
 Adam & Rachel Siegel
 Ira & Ellen Siegman
 Jay & Judith Silberman
 Jay Endelman & Katherine Simonetti
 Jonathan Skolnik & Masha Belenky
 Marilyn Slivka
 Scott Slutsky & Samantha Keyv
 Benjamin & Megan Somers
 Steven Srolovitz
 Edward & Jina Stamm
 Abraham & Leslie Stein
 David Stein
 Scott & Karen Strauss
 Elinor Tattar
 Alissa Telchin
 John & Ruth Tifford
 Jeffrey Tornow
 Daniel Traster & Katherine Mcgraw
 Lauren Tuchman
 Henry J. Vas Nunes
 Deborah Vishnevsky
 Abby Volin
 Sarah Waxman & Brittany Binler
 Joseph & Hannah Wayne
 Wendy Weiner & Ivonne Miranda
 Samuel Weintraub
 Anna Weiss
 Roberta Weiss
 Jessica Weisz & Caleb Krell
 Ellyn & John Wheeler
 Susan Winchester
 Alisa Wyner
 Eric Zweigel





The Wellness Center at Adas

“The beginning of awe is wonder, and the beginning of wisdom is awe.”
~Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

The Wellness Center @ Adas Israel is thrilled to welcome you to a sacred place for communal gathering, mindfulness, and reflection. We invite community members to open themselves to wonder, awe, and Jewish ritual practice, seeking a deeper connection with one’s inner self. Through meditation, yoga, immersion, and learning, we focus on mindfulness and embodiment. We turn inward and explore the multiple spiritual dimensions of Jewish tradition. Please join us to breath in and release, connect, and engage.



Dip in the Adas Mikvah

One goal of mindfulness is to find moments of alignment, where body, mind, and soul are all engaged. Mikvah is a powerful Jewish ritual through which we can experience this alignment. adasisrael.org/mikvah



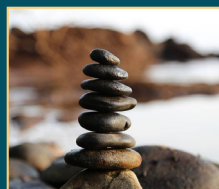
Wise Aging

Wise Aging is a small-group exploration of aging well and wisely through a Jewish lens. The Wise Aging Adas group will meet monthly to learn, share experiences, and acquire skills to sanctify the moments in time that make up this stage in our lives.



Gan Hamishpacha/Family Center

Growing a family is a magical time in life—a time that that calls for support, community, and a space for learning, questioning, and sharing. We invite you to join a Support Group right here at Adas.



Hesed Support Groups & Meditation

Support groups are a wonderful way to share insights and coping strategies for different life experiences. Our groups include Intro to Mindfulness, Grief, Loss, Healing, and more.



*It is time, the Infinite calls, Come.
V’hotzati, I will take you out
V’hitzalti I will deliver you to a new place
V’ga’alti, I will help you transform
V’lachati I will take you into relationship
And you will know your beloved place amid
the myriad of all life.
(Exodus 6:6-7)*

*I can’t, the soul cries,
I am so afraid.
Of course you are, the Infinite responds.
You have been in the narrow place for so very long.
But I will lift you up,
So just for a moment you will see
The expanse of possibilities.
Then you will decide what is more frightening:
To stay where you are
Or to step out toward what might be.
~ Rabbi Yael Levy*

As we look forward to the end of winter and a new season, we are reminded yet again just how miraculous it is to watch spring unfold. What was an empty patch of earth one morning becomes a bunch of daffodils the next; a bare tree seems to sprout green leaves in slow motion before our eyes; and it can look like an artist arrived while we were asleep to selectively dab bright hues of paint around town, widening our world. This is nature’s gift and, likewise, our spiritual calendar gives us two colorful and expansive chagim: Purim and Pesach.

Each holiday is filled with embodied and sensory traditions, as year after year, we gather together to tell their stories through the Megillah and the Maggid. This familiarity brings great comfort, of course, but each Purim spiel, each Passover seder, finds us in a new place, even if we are churning the same groggers or reclining in the same chair. Among the many wondrous things about our Jewish holiday traditions is how the liturgy, themes, and rituals continue to feel relevant.

And now we approach these holidays during an intensely challenging time. How will it feel to call out evil this year as we read the Megillah? What will it be like just now to sit around the seder table and tell the story of captivity and liberation? How is our own mitzrayim, literally narrowness, keeping us from opening our hearts to begin a journey of expansion? The ancient themes of Purim and Pesach continue to present themselves anew, and this year, we may feel them from an even deeper place, perhaps of fear, anger, confusion, heartbreak or some combination of these emotions. Rabbi Yael Levy’s wise words above speak to our moment: “[we] have been in the narrow place for so very long.” And as we begin to imagine how we can “step out toward what might be,” we want to bring both attention and intention to nurture ourselves and the communities around us.

It is in this spirit that **the Wellness Center @ Adas Israel** is thrilled to welcome you to a sacred place for communal gathering, mindfulness, and reflection. We invite community members to open themselves to wonder, awe, and Jewish ritual practice; to join fellow travelers to seek a deeper inner connection through meditation, yoga, ritual immersion, and other embodied practices; to create wholeness of body, mind, and soul. Please watch for announcements about upcoming programs and join us in creating expansiveness and release.

May you find joy and meaning during your Purim and Passover celebrations. It is the brilliance of our tradition that these rich and colorful holidays occur during springtime, as the landscape blossoms and we sense that in every corner mystery and wonder are there to be seen. Chag sameach!

adasisrael.org/wellness-center



MakomDC

The Why And What of a Beit Midrash
adasisrael.org/makomdc

SIYYUM SCHOLAR WITH RABBI SHAI HELD PRESIDENT AND DEAN HADAR WITH SPECIAL BOOK LAUNCH

MAY 17-19

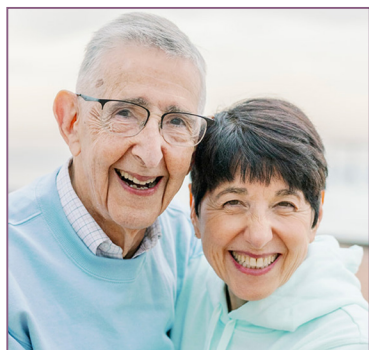
Jews have a God problem. Many of us struggle to talk about God—we don't know who or what we mean by the word and we are beset by doubt in any case; and many of us have tragically internalized anti-Judaic stereotypes about the God of Judaism (e.g., "The God of Judaism is a God of wrath"). In our first session, we'll hear a contemporary Jewish thinker's honest reflections on why he (sometimes) believes in God, and why doubt may actually be a boon to faith. In our second, we'll take a close look at the biblical idea that what makes God God and not a human is... God's unfathomably vast love.

BOOK LAUNCH, Sunday May 19 @ 10 am

Join us in a deep and meaningful conversation with Rabbi Held on his new book, *Judaism Is About Love: Recovering The Heart of Jewish Life*.



Rabbi Shai Held



ADAS ISRAEL DAILY MINYAN

In Mourning: The Unexpected Comfort of Morning Minyan

BY: JOANIE LIEBERMANN

This is an abbreviated version of the remarks that Joanie Liebermann delivered at morning minyan at the end of the 11-month period of the daily recitation of the mourner's kaddish in memory of her father, Frank Liebermann (z"l). To read her complete remarks, please see the end of this Chronicle.

"I'm done, Joanie," my 93-year-old father announced over the phone in his distinctive German accent. "OK, Dad," I replied, holding back tears. It was 6 am, Yom Kippur, 2022, the very day his paternal grandfather died in Theresienstadt 80 years before. "I'll be at the hospital as soon as I can; we'll talk to your palliative care team," I said. "I love you, Dad." Three weeks before, he had danced at our son and daughter-in-law's UK wedding.

Now, two days after Yom Kippur and two days before Sukkot, my father got the death he wanted: chosen, deliberate, quick.

I had always believed that Jews do death well, that shiva allowed mourners to be surrounded and comforted by family and friends, to laugh, to cry, to remember the loved one lost. But for our immediate family, that was not to be. Traditional Jewish law annulled the seven days of initial mourning with the beginning of a festival, in this case Sukkot. Moreover, our visiting British daughter-in-law tested positive for Covid the day my father died, and our son followed suit. Any in-person get-togethers simply could not occur. Our daughter and her family could not be in our home.

Unable to see anyone, I spent the next week walking our Schipperke on neighborhood streets and trails in Rock Creek Park, grateful for good weather, nature's salve, and the company of a living creature. Beyond those daily walks, I had no idea how to mourn my father. Though a regular at Shabbat services, I was a stranger to the weekday service. Its siddur, rapid-fire Hebrew, and choreography eluded me. When my mother died five years before, saying kaddish on Shabbat mornings seemed like a better option. But after my father's death, I needed something more. His departure left me orphaned and unmoored. I reluctantly turned to morning minyan because I didn't know where else to go.

I had no confidence in my choice. My father would have made a very different one. I never saw him wear a tallit or say kaddish. I don't remember Hebrew coming from his lips. He did not have a bar mitzvah. He lost eight family members in the Shoah, a fate he and his parents narrowly escaped. There was no place for God in his world. And here I was, contemplating saying kaddish for him every day for 11 months. Reciting a doxology that says nothing about the dead but lists and praises God's attributes?

Yit-ga-dal ve'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba ...
 Exalted and hallowed be God's greatness...

Perhaps I would make him laugh. I'd like to think so. Just as likely, he'd be shaking his head, not disapprovingly, but without understanding either.

Then I did something I had never been willing to do: I cleared my early morning patient calendar to physically be at shul, and set my alarm still earlier to speed walk beforehand. An amalgam of two daily rituals: one intimately familiar, the other completely foreign, but both linked to my father.

Still questioning my minyan decision, I met with Rabbi Lauren three weeks later. Most minyan-goers were welcoming enough, I told her, but everyone else seemed to know what they were doing, and I did not. I had no interest in wearing a tallit or receiving a Torah honor. I wasn't even sure I believed in God. What was I doing there? Rabbi Lauren affectionately observed that minyan "didn't seem to be hurting" me, and encouraged me to continue going, assuring me that I would figure out if my regular attendance was helpful or not.

I began to focus on what was familiar: the Sh'ma, the prayers before and after the Torah reading, the beginning and end of the Amidah, Aleinu, kaddish. The letters of those Hebrew words fell like soft rain on my mourning soul, gentle and tender. I paid particular attention to the silences, as those were the moments I felt closest to my father. Even my grieving mind became familiar with the structure of the service. By four months, I was willing to

dress the Torah; at six, I accepted my first aliyah. Morning minyan gave me a fresh awareness of the synagogue as a place, a space, a sanctuary, a home. I grew to love its hum, only audible when its cavernous rooms were empty of congregants. A peace, a calm, a quiet often obscured by Shabbat. How important were the greetings from those who tended to that space in the early hours of the day: the janitorial staff, the security guards, the Sunday morning receptionist. Their smiles were moments of promise, especially in the early weeks of mourning, when my sorrow was always with me.

As the months passed, I appreciated the increasing number of women who came to minyan each morning, some fellow mourners, some not. A sisterhood of sorts that expanded and contracted, partly by the happenstance of loss, partly by commitment and competing obligations. I loved when they led services and read Torah. That said, I also appreciated the men who made minyan happen, especially the regulars who led us in prayer.

I saw that other things happened at minyan besides mourning: baby namings, honoring of bar and bat mitzvah families, birthday celebrations, a round of spirits in memory of a loved one, teaching bites from the clergy. All reminders that life goes on.

For me, eating breakfast following the daily service was not a big draw. I had to rush off to work most mornings immediately after the service concluded, but I always appreciated the days I could linger. Where else could we freely talk about grieving, crazy dreams about those we were mourning, cleaning out living spaces, or unveilings? Some of those conversations gave rise to remarkable acts of kindness, generosity, and friendship. An artist offered to untangle the strings of an exquisitely carved wooden marionette that my father purchased for me during our travels to Prague. A second artist incorporated a cardinal's nest, carefully salvaged from our backyard during Covid, into the larger nest of sticks she created in our synagogue lobby. Months later, we would discover a shared Holocaust history that gave even deeper meaning to my daily kaddish ritual. A third congregant volunteered to help me create a tallit of my own, as she had lovingly done for her wife. Another minyan regular, also mourning his father, generously translated several German poems of my maternal great uncle, a well-published, postmodern gay Austrian poet who perished in the Shoah.

Eleven months later, the words of the mourner's kaddish roll off my tongue. Indeed, with a gentle prompt, I led the final kaddish the same day I delivered these remarks. Showing up each morning in this space allowed me to mourn my father in a way I never imagined possible. He is both gone, and with me, and I have honored his name.



tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

SOCIAL ACTION

The Adas Social Action Committee's affordable housing committee had a huge victory this January when the DC government committed to building multifamily affordable housing as part of the redevelopment of the Chevy Chase neighborhood's library and community center.

DC is soliciting requests for proposals that call for at least 30 percent of the housing to be affordable for those living at 30 to 80 percent of the area median income, about \$42,000 to \$113,000 for a family of four.

SAC Affordable Housing Committee lead Jamie Butler spearheads this work as part of Adas's participation in the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), an interfaith, multiracial nonprofit organization that organizes to build power to transform communities and bring about social change. Butler co-chairs WIN's Ward 3-focused affordable housing efforts along with Temple Sinai's Barbara Kraft.

The Ward 3-focused group of WIN was created to ensure that local congregations like Adas were pushing for change right in our own backyard.

Butler and the WIN team organized people to speak at an array of government and community meetings, participate in surveys, and helped to knock on about 600 doors last summer to show their support for a more inclusive Chevy Chase, which is one of the most expensive and segregated communities in DC. Black people were displaced from the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s for new development, and covenants were put in place that excluded minorities (in some cases Jews) from owning homes in the area.

The current redevelopment is "an opportunity to address these horrific acts and to create a more vibrant and more equitable Chevy Chase and Ward 3," Butler said.

For Butler, this work is part of Judaism's principles of tikkun olam and derech eretz—repairing the world and performing acts of decency.

"Everyone should have access to good housing, good health, and good food sources," Butler said. Housing is crucial because when people have better housing, they typically have access to good schools, a cleaner environment, and nearby grocery stores, she explained.

There will be additional opportunities for advocacy by Adas members as the Chevy Chase project progresses. Butler stresses that you don't need to live in Chevy Chase or Ward 3 to be involved and encourages interested people to reach out to her at jgb3611@gmail.com.

ANNE FRANK HOUSE



Current and former board members celebrating the 36th anniversary of Anne Frank House on November 4, 2023

We want to thank Team Adas for honoring the work of Anne Frank House in the Annual Appeal and celebrating our 36th anniversary last year. The support of the Adas community is what makes it possible to successfully house and support people who would otherwise be homeless.



Anne Frank House wishes to acknowledge the passing in January of one of our founders, Elaine Kremens (1928-2024). It's impossible to imagine where we would be—even IF we would be—without Elaine's vision and dedication. In 1987, along with her husband Bill, she led a small group of dedicated Adas Israel congregants to found Anne Frank House with a noble goal: to provide permanent, supportive housing to D.C. residents in need. Anne Frank House's first residents lived in a group home, some two miles north of Capitol Hill.

Today, Anne Frank House provides individual apartments, scattered around this city, to house people with mental health issues and other disabilities. Many of our residents are aging; their average age is over 70. To ensure a stable future for them, we are conducting an Aging in Place research project with a new intern from Howard University. Our goal is to formulate a plan for each resident.

As we pursue our mission of offering shelter with dignity, we can always use volunteers. We have immediate opportunities for volunteers for people who are interested in:

- Hosting a fundraising house party for us this spring.
- Helping run our social media channels by posting regularly to our platforms.
- Joining the Board as Development Committee Chair.
- Other ways to grow our network and support to double the number of residents we serve.

Looking forward, Anne Frank House is excited to share that we are changing our name! Later this year, likely this spring, we will officially become Anne's Place Inc.

As the world has grown more interconnected through social media and other technology, we have come to realize that using the name "Anne Frank House" was causing confusion with the museum of the same name in the Netherlands.

We chose the name Anne's Place so that we could continue to honor our namesake's legendary struggle to survive without the security of her own home—and to retain our connection to our own organizational past. But while our name will change, our mission remains the same, and with it comes an ambitious

plan to grow and expand the number of people we serve.

Stay tuned on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn for the launch of our new website with our new name. And if your time and your budget allow, please join us in working to make Washington, D.C., a safe and livable place for the neediest among us. We can't do it without you.



SUPPORTING ISRAEL: HESED STEPS UP TO THE PLATE

We will all remember October 7, 2023. It was a horrible day, an unforgettable memory that will stay with us forever. We all seemed stunned, paralyzed, and asking what we could do to support Israel.

Within 24 hours, our clergy team found out that the Israeli embassy could use some help with meals. Suddenly, the embassy staff was working around the clock, and sending homemade meals seemed like a wonderful way to offer love and support from Adas. In addition to feeding the staff on site, one of the embassy officials needed help feeding her family since she was in DC by herself (her husband was in Israel). When the clergy team asked if Hesed could do this, the answer was simple and immediate: YES!

Two parallel strategies were set into place:

Thanks to Janet Scribner and Edna Povich (Hesed Meal Train co-leaders), the meal train for the solo mom embassy staffer and her children was set up with the slots filling immediately. Adas cooks stepped up to the plate to make delicious food for a mom and her two growing teenage boys.

Thanks to Dan Traster and Bonnie Benwick (Hesed Cooking Team co-leaders), the Hesed Cooking Team mobilized and set up a system to cook for 50 people once a week for 4 weeks. In the blink of an eye, Dan and Bonnie created menus and a shopping



list. A note was sent out to sign up cooks for the 4 cooking sessions. The cooking slots for all four cooking sessions were filled immediately and the marathon month of cooking began. Because of the unexpected expense, without even being asked, Adas members started sending donations to pay for the extra food. Hesed volunteers stepped up to the plate in ways that could not be imagined.

Oh, and by the way, when the embassy staffers mentioned they loved to eat fresh challah with Nutella, Dan and Bonnie and their teams baked challahs which were accompanied by a huge jar of Nutella. Hesed delivers!

In addition, Hesed contacted some of our local food vendors who work with Adas. Without hesitation, each and every one volunteered to send additional food for the Hesed meals going to the embassy.

TO SHOW OUR THANKS, WE ARE ASKING YOU TO SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES. THEY SUPPORTED US WHEN WE NEEDED THEM. WHEN YOU PURCHASE FOOD FOR HOME OR A SPECIAL OCCASION, PLEASE CONSIDER (STRONGLY!) USING THESE AMAZING VENDORS.

THEY WALK THEIR TALK. SERIOUSLY, PLEASE SHOP FROM THESE VENDORS!!



BAKED BY YAEL
bakedbyyael.com
Baked by Yael sent trays of delicious baked goods and challah.



SOUPE GIRL
thesoupergirl.com
Souper Girl sent gallons of delicious and nutritious soups.



SUNFLOWER BAKERY
sunflowerbakery.org
Sunflower sent trays of their specially made cookies and cakes.



WHISKED COOKIES
whiskedd.com
Whisked sent bags of their unusual and delicious cookies.



PLNT BURGER
plntburger.com
Helped arrange for access to delicious food.



Pastries by Randolph
pastriesbyrandolph.com
Beautiful high-end pastries were a particular delight for the embassy staff.

Delivering the food to the embassy was quite an operation. The food was packed in many cartons and driven to the embassy, where we were met by embassy staff and security. The feedback was incredible. The gratitude of the mom and her family as well as the entire embassy staff was quite moving. Our efforts truly mattered to them.

Adas could not stop the war but we could and we did mobilize to do what was needed to help Israel. This is what makes Adas so special. We are a community of people who care and share.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO COOKED, DONATED, DELIVERED, AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS HESD VOLUNTEER EFFORT.



Garden of the Righteous

2024 Honoree:
Honoring the Van Damme Family from Belgium
Sunday, May 5 @ 2pm



From left to right: Maurice De Viaene, Hirsch Grunstein, Maria Van Damme, Emile Van Damme.
Photo from Yad Vashem.



Maria (left) and Alice Van Damme with Hirsch Grunstein.
Photo from Yad Vashem.



Musical Moments at Adas

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



RICHARD L. KRAMER FAMILY CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

The Musical Legend of Meir Finkelstein

Adas Israel proudly presents **Cantor Meir Finkelstein**, featured in a concert of his own compositions.

Meir **changed the course of contemporary synagogue music** with his unique blend of **Hollywood, stage, and bima**. His liturgical compositions, which number over 150, are sung all over the world, with L'dor Vador and V'al Kulam as his most famous settings. Meir's compositional voice is unique - born in Israel as the son of a cantor, he became the youngest cantor in Europe at age 14. He later served Sinai Temple in Los Angeles for 18 years, at the same time enjoying a career as an award winning movie and television composer. Meir successfully blends these musical worlds into word-painting, inspiring song.

Cantor Finkelstein will be joined on vocals by **Cantor Faith Steinsnyder, Cantor Marcus Feldman**, and our own **Cantor Arianne Brown**, accompanied by acclaimed Jewish musician **Aryell Cohen**. Special appearances include the **Children's Chorus of Washington** as well as Adas Israel's own **Kolot** and **Flash Choir**. Following an afternoon of glorious music, you're warmly invited to an hors d'oeuvres and ice cream reception.

Sunday, June 2 at 4pm

followed by an hors d'oeuvres and ice cream reception

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments

Upcoming Musical Moments Events

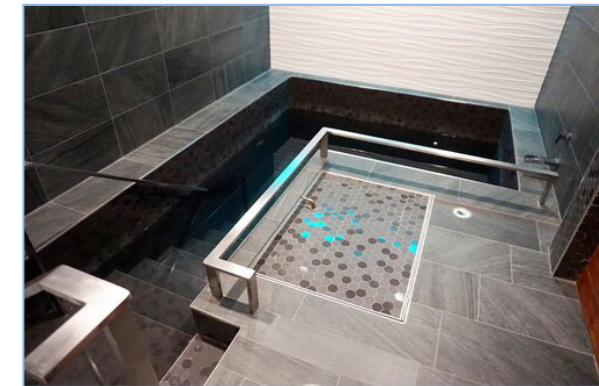


Shabbat A Cappella with Rak Shalom from UMD Shabbat, April 5-6

Join us for a Shabbat infused with Jewish a cappella!

Friday night's TEM service, led by Rak Shalom members, will include special moments of a cappella song by the full group. After Shabbat dinner, Rak Shalom will lead our community in zemirot. Please register online for Friday night dinner at adasisrael.org/musicalmoments.

Rak Shalom will participate in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary service on Shabbat morning. After kiddush, gather by the entrance to Kay Hall to hear them sing more of their repertoire in an informal concert.



ADAS ISRAEL COMMUNITY MIKVAH

WRITTEN BY RABBI ELIANNA YOLKUT

Sometimes running a part of an institution is truly a sacred and holy experience but perhaps not in the way you may think. When I took over as director of the Mikvah in the summer of 2022, I was excited to learn the ins and outs of Mikvah guiding and to help lead our wonderful volunteers to teach communities all over the DMV about Mikvah and its sacred presence in the tool kit of Jewish life. I was jazzed to re-learn all the Jewish legal texts on Mikvah and its proper usage. What I didn't realize was how sacred the task of keeping the Mikvah safe and clean for all of our immersions would be.

Our community Mikvah sees nearly 900 immersions a year from the most ancient uses (conversions and monthly postmenstrual cycle) to the most modern (after a loss, celebrating a bar/bat mitzvah, post-surgery, or marking a divorce) and so many more. The Mikvah itself requires a significant level of maintenance. With deep gratitude to Alexx Bowles, our wonderful operations manager, who teamed up with me, we are ramping up our care of the sacred Mikvah space and waters. Recently we did a full and complete drain and clean of our Mikvah and its pools (see photos), installed a new filter, pump timer, and several other crucial components to the running of our sacred space properly and efficiently. There is deep kedushah in the most mundane aspects of running the physical plant of our community. We are grateful for the resources, ingenuity, and dedication of our team to make this happen.

As always if you have questions please feel free to reach out to rabbi.yolkut@adasisrael.org, and if you want to schedule an immersion, please do so by following this link: <https://mikvahcalendar.as.me/schedule.php>.

Rabbi Elianna Yolkut



From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON



When the email with the subject line, "Submit your B'nai Mitzvah announcement for the Spring 2024 edition of the Chronicle," landed in my inbox, I needed to read it twice.

Ten years ago, when we moved to DC so that I could take this job, a large part of the appeal was being able to raise kids in this amazing congregation—to send them to the Gan, to be part of the Shabbat community, and to celebrate simchas together. And much of that has already come to be. Between my two children we have accumulated six years at the Gan, eight years at the religious school, six years at Milton, and more shabbatot and simchas than I could possibly ever count (alongside powerful community during less celebratory times).

Ten years means that the student in the b'nai mitzvah class of my first year here have now graduated college, and I have watched hundreds and hundreds of others head to high school, participate in summer camp and gap years, attend universities all over the country, and take first jobs out in the "real world." And through it all, my own kids have gotten older, all the while building that community and extended family that I had always hoped for. And yet, it somehow still took my breath away when I realized that my son who was three when we moved here is in this year's b'nai mitzvah class.

So after reading a decade's worth of student bios sharing their history at Adas, the family they will be celebrating with (and remembering), and their mitzvah projects, it was finally time to actually write one. It was harder than I imagined. With each sentence I found myself going down memory lane, thinking of all the families we have accompanied through this process. Different students, through different chapters of Adas, through personal journeys and an ever-changing world, it is such a privilege to watch our students grow, celebrate, and begin to chart their own paths into high school and beyond.

This spring will bring simchas for the next group of families, mine included, and as we celebrate together, we will continue to be grateful for this community, thinking about all those who have come before us and all those who are yet to come. Mazal tov to all of us.



SUPPORTING JEWISH STUDENTS WHILE ISRAEL IS AT WAR

As we've said to ourselves again and again since October 7, this has not been the school year any of us thought we were going to have. We have come together to learn, to celebrate, but also to mourn, to process, to bear witness. As adults, we have worked together to navigate uncharted waters—how do we talk to our kids about Hamas, about the war, about peoplehood, about what Jews around the world are feeling and experiencing? How much is too much to share with them? What if we don't share enough? What if they hear it at school or read it online instead of coming from us? How do we protect them while also empowering them? What do we do when they ask us questions we simply can't answer?

And, of course, daily life continues at its usual breakneck pace. Spirit week! Soccer practice! Camp registration! Sick days! Sibling rivalry! Picky eating! Homework! For many of us, the Adas community has truly been our saving grace in this moment: our safe space, our trusted advisor, our source of routine, solace, normalcy. The Education Department has been working in close partnership with Adas's senior clergy members, our lay leaders, and our colleagues in the Jewish communal and education spaces to meet this moment. Our goal is to be able to support and sustain our students and families in the immediate, short, and long term. We are balancing being responsive in the moment with continuing our critical work of providing a rich, balanced education designed to inspire our students to lead their lives as identified, committed Jews and ethical human beings. As our world evolves, so too does our understanding of what it takes to achieve these weighty goals.

As we finish out the school year, we'll continue bringing our students and families new lessons, updated resources, guest speakers, and special events designed to embody Adas's long-standing commitment and obligation to Israel. As our clergy team has expressed, our obligation to Israel is threefold:

1. We share a love and longing for our ancestral homeland, Eretz Yisra'el, the Land of Israel.
2. We prioritize our special relationship with Am Yisra'el—the worldwide community of Jews that is as diverse as creation itself.
3. And, of course, we support a secure and peaceful present and future for perhaps the greatest modern miracle for our people, Medinat Yisra'el, the State of Israel.

We have expanded on this by reaffirming our interconnected commitments to our students and families:

- We will continue to teach Israel's history from a place of fact, love, and support.
- We will be a resource our students can trust as they learn to think critically about what they hear from friends and what they read online.
- We will create safe spaces for our students to process and grapple with Israel's history and present, and with the historical and contemporary realities of antisemitism.
- We will give families spaces to be together in grief, fear, hope, and love.
- We will affirm for our students that there are lots of authentic ways to be in a loving relationship with Israel, and that differences in the way we love do not diminish our Jewish identity or place in the Adas community.
- We will instill Jewish pride in our students and empower them to continue to own their Jewish identities with conviction, even as they navigate the rise in antisemitism we are all seeing.



MITZVAH DAY

The religious school was thrilled to kick off 2024 with a school-wide Mitzvah Day. Students from pre-K through 6th grade spent a Sunday morning together learning about the values of tzedakah and tikkun olam and doing hands-on work that benefits our community. With support from their teachers, the Adas Hesed Committee, and our partners at Anne Frank House, students worked together to make havdalah bags and birthday cards for Adas members, scarves and lunches for people in need, and letters of support for IDF members deployed in Israel. It was so meaningful to see our students putting all that they have learned about Jewish values this year into action with a day of experiential learning.



HAVDALAH PROGRAMS

This year we have put a strong emphasis on community Shabbat gatherings. We have always had lovely Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Shabbat dinners, and Shabbat morning services for our students, but this year we have added many opportunities to come together for Havdalah, a ceremony that marks the symbolic end of Shabbat and ushers in the new week. We have hosted five havdalah programs this winter for 6th graders, 5th graders, 3-4th graders, indergarten-2nd graders, and young families. Each night brought so much joy, laughter, and spiritual connection for each of the participants. We look forward to continuing these havdalah moments next winter.

SAVE THE DATE!

- Purim Party**, March 24
- Religious School registration** opens May 1
- 3rd grade Chagigat Hasiddur**, May 17
- Teen Dinner**, May 21



THE GAN

50 Years of Early Childhood @ Adas

Gan HaMishpacha



Gan HaMishpacha, “Garden of the Family,” is the Family Center here at Adas Israel. As the stepping stone into the Gan Ecosystem for young families, Gan HaMishpacha provides community, connection, and perinatal education. Through seasonal groups and individually scheduled encounters, Gan HaMishpacha focuses on the idea that there is “no one way to make a family” and “families look all different ways.” Our Gan HaMishpacha prenatal and postpartum group connects individuals, couples, and families with peers who are going through the same season of life. Many expecting parents meet each other during a prenatal group, and then find each other again during a seasonal postpartum group. From there, friendships are born, and Adas becomes the place young, growing families come to see and greet each other on Shabbat, holidays, when in the Gan, and into the Religious School years.



Gan HaMishpacha director, Darci Lewis, is a DONA-certified Postpartum Doula & Certified Lactation Consultant. She serves on the board of Postpartum Support International’s Maryland Chapter, and is a career early childhood professional. She is also the Senior Educator of the Gan HaYeled Preschool. Darci believes in the beauty of early childhood and the need for all young families to have perinatal support. She truly loves helping parents understand their pregnancy experience and getting to know the cues and personality of their newborn baby. Please contact Darci (darci.lewis@adasisrael.org) with any questions or interest; she looks forward to welcoming and supporting you and your growing family!

Please come and visit our village—Gan HaMishpacha—on the second floor of the Gan. Visit our website and encourage those preparing to bring a baby into the family to join a support group: adasisrael.org/gan-hamishpacha.html.

Gan HaNeshama



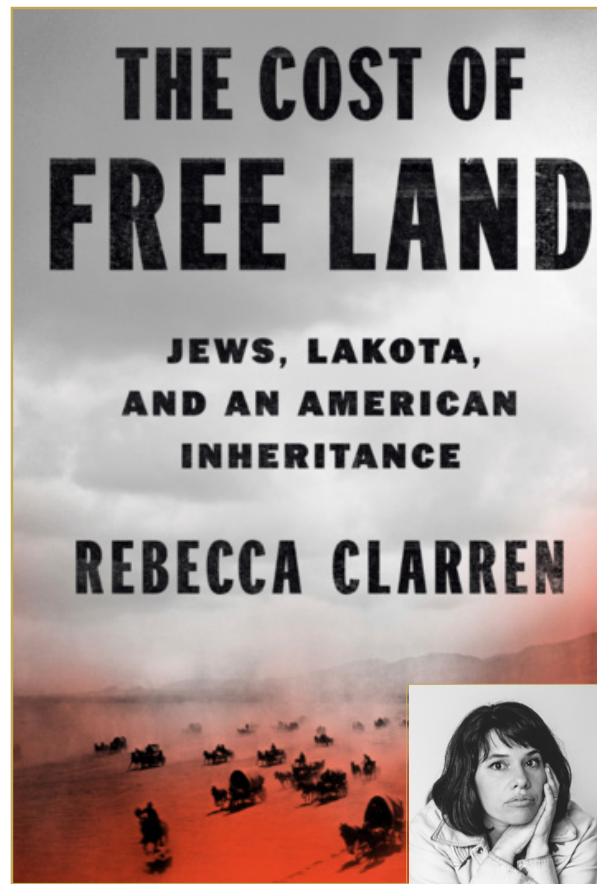
Gan HaNeshama, “Garden of the Soul,” our multidisciplinary evaluation center housed within our Adas Israel building, caters to families with children ages 10 months to 4 years who demonstrate developmental delays and/or neurodiversity that affects their behavior and functioning. This center is one of only four in the DMV area that takes a multidisciplinary approach, in which a full team of clinicians and therapists work together to evaluate and treat individual cases. The center is run by Stephanie Slater, a Gan HaYeled veteran, who has been involved in Jewish early childhood inclusive practices in the DC area for 20+ years. Her expert clinical team is available to families who want to better understand their children’s profile and the support services necessary to help them thrive. Visit adasisrael.org/gan-haneshama.html or email Stephanie.Slater@adasisrael.org for more details.



Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

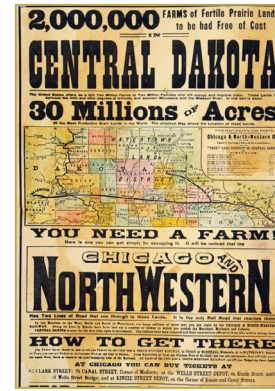


"Pa pleaded. "We can get a hundred and sixty acres out west, just by living on it . . . If Uncle Sam's willing to give us a farm . . . I say let's take it." Laura Ingalls Wilder (By the Shores of Silver Lake)

In 1862, Congress enacted the Homestead Act, hoping to encourage settlement of America's Western territories. This landmark legislation promised 160 acres of free federal land to eligible persons, including immigrants who declared their intention of becoming citizens. Rebecca Clarren's Jewish immigrant ancestors were among thousands who headed West to take advantage of this grand offer.

Clarren grew up with stories of her homesteading forebears' bravery and grit. With hard work, they became financially successful, elevating themselves and their descendants to the American middle class. But in recent years, Clarren, an investigative reporter who specializes in the American West, discovered that her family's good fortune came partly at the expense of Native Americans.

Her family's "free land" had been the home of the Lakota people for hundreds of generations before the United States seized it and made it available to homesteaders. Uncertain what to think or do, Clarren turned to Jewish texts for guidance. She relates this compelling story—part history, part memoir—in *The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance*.



THE SHTETL ON THE PRAIRIE

Fleeing pogroms in Czarist Russia, Clarren's family, the Sinykins, escaped to America in the late 19th century. Exhilarated at the prospect of "free land," they set off to remake their lives in South Dakota.

The Sinykins settled in an area with other Jewish settlers that became known as Jew Flats. They had their own rabbi, who also served as a shochet, a Jewish butcher able to provide the community with kosher meat. For a mikvah, Clarren's great-great-grandmother dunked in the creek behind the house, even in the icy winter.

The Sinykins may or may not have realized that Jew Flats had been the age-old home of the much-persecuted Lakota. At the hands of the American government, the Lakota endured multiple massacres, forced displacement, broken treaties, land theft, and the mass slaughter of the buffalo, a main source of food.

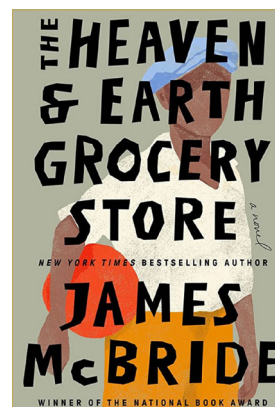


A PATH TO REPAIR

Clarren shared her concerns about her homesteading ancestors with a revered Native American judge. Although Clarren's forebears had not harmed the Lakota directly, they and their descendants benefited from the government's taking of Lakota land. The judge advised Clarren to study the traditions of her own people, the Jews, on what constitutes harm and how to make it right. "Justice works best," said the judge, "when it is grounded in one's own culture."

Taking this counsel to heart, Clarren embarked on several years of Jewish text study with her rabbi. They were struck by a Talmudic passage describing a dispute over what should be done if a stolen beam was used in erecting a building. The House of Shammai opined that the building must be demolished so that the beam could be returned to its true owner. In contrast, the House of Hillel had a more pragmatic solution: leave the building standing, but reimburse the beam's owner for the beam's value. Both sides agreed, however, that amends in some form must be made for the stolen beam.

The Cost of Free Land reveals how Clarren applied this and other Jewish teachings to her family's situation. Beyond that, the entire book, Clarren says, "can be read as a land acknowledgement to the Lakota nation."



AN AMERICAN TALE OF LOVE & COMMUNITY

How can a book full of societal evils like racism, antisemitism, and child abuse manage to be heartwarming and uplifting? This is the magic of *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, the recent novel by celebrated author James McBride.

Like a murder mystery, the novel opens with the discovery of a dead body. In 1972, Pennsylvania state troopers question an elderly Jewish man about a human skeleton, found at the bottom of a well with a mezuzah. To learn the identity of the skeleton—and much more—readers follow McBride's narrative back to Pottstown, Pennsylvania (a real place), in the 1920s and 1930s. There, readers meet a large cast of memorable characters—Jews, Blacks, and Italians—who make their home in a low-income, tumbledown neighborhood called Chicken Hill.

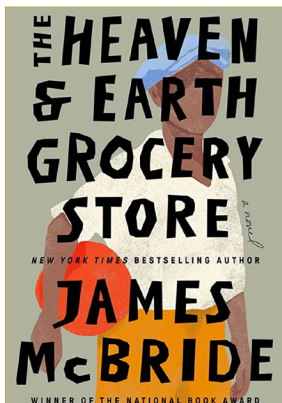
A COMMON CAUSE

Chicken Hill residents Moshe and Chona Ludlow own two theaters, as well as the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store, a kosher market established by Chona's rabbi father. The theaters, where Moshe features Jewish klezmer bands and Black jazz musicians, are profitable (especially after Moshe opens them to Black patrons, with Chona's encouragement). In contrast, the grocery store loses money daily because of big-hearted Chona's practice of extending credit to needy customers.

Moshe emigrated from Romania, but Chona grew up in Chicken Hill's tiny Jewish community. She understands her town and its residents, who love her and tolerate her oddities. These include an enthusiasm for reading Talmud and books on socialism and unions. Chona is comfortable challenging authority, something that makes her immigrant husband nervous.

So, when Nate and Addie Timblin, a Black couple who work for Moshe and Chona, ask them to hide their 12-year-old nephew, Dodo, Chona is all-in from the first, discounting Moshe's hesitation. Dodo is sweet and smart, but because he is deaf, state officials want to commit him to the notorious Pennhurst State Hospital for the Insane and Feeble-Minded. The plot careens along a wild, zany path as the diverse residents of Chicken Hill put aside their distrust and grievances, largely out of loyalty to Chona, to unite in a common mission to rescue Dodo.

One of their foes is Doc Roberts, who leads the annual Ku Klux Klan parade. Even under his white sheet, Roberts is recognizable because, like Chona, he is a polio survivor who walks with a limp. Roberts mourns the "invasion" of Jews, other European immigrants, and Black migrants from southern states into his once-white, Presbyterian Pottstown. Roberts is one of multiple characters who have differing visions of America. These wide-ranging views of America's past and present are among the book's most interesting and thought-provoking elements.



JAMES MCBRIDE

A National Book Award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter, James McBride won early acclaim for his memoir, *The Color of Water* (1996), describing his early years as the Black child of a Jewish mother who emigrated from Poland. Other McBride books have focused on the abolitionist, John Brown (*The Good Lord Bird*), and a Brooklyn housing project (*Deacon King Kong*). President Obama presented McBride with a 2015 National Humanities Medal for "humanizing the complexities of discussing race in America."

In interviews, McBride says that *Heaven & Earth* was inspired by his long-ago summer job working at a pioneering camp for the disabled. The character of Chona resembles McBride's Jewish grandmother, a polio survivor who ran a grocery store in a Black neighborhood of a small town. Asked about the concept of tikkun olam (repairing the world), which weaves through the novel, McBride says he loves its "purity" and simplicity. To heal the world, McBride says, "You start right where you are."

The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance (virtual program)

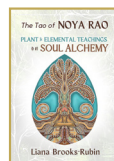
Sunday, April 7, at 4 pm

Award-winning journalist Rebecca Clarren will introduce her new book, *The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance*, which explores the history of Jewish homesteaders in the American West. Clarren also grapples with the question whether, under Jewish law, the homesteaders' descendants owe any debt to the Native Americans who lived on the homesteaders' land before the U.S. government seized it and offered it to the homesteaders. To register for this Zoom program, email Robin at librarian@adasisrael.org.

Book Chat: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store (in-person in the Adas library)

Sunday, May 5, at 10 am

Join our discussion of James McBride's big-hearted historical novel, winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. To register for this in-person book discussion, email Robin at librarian@adasisrael.org.



Mazal tov to Liana Brooks-Rubin on the publication of her new book, *The Tao of Noya Rao*.



Ma Tovv

The Chanin Family

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

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

If our records are correct, it looks like Johanna joined Adas in 1989, followed by Leonard in 1990 and Leah in 1992. Johanna, what first attracted you and brought you to Adas, and what convincing did your brother and mom need to also join the community?

Johanna: Actually, Randy (Levitt, my husband) was the first to join in the early '80s. I joined in '89 because I wanted a conservative synagogue that was within walking distance of where I lived... "shul shopping" wasn't a thing in those days, so I think I just got very lucky that Adas was the synagogue in my neighborhood. My brother also lived in the neighborhood (as did his then-fiancée, Jackie), and when my mom moved to Washington in 1992, she was very enthusiastic to be joining a vibrant, large conservative synagogue that offered so many ways to participate in Jewish life. Jackie grew up in a Reform congregation in New York and found her niche at Adas when their sons started preschool at the Gan and when she joined the adult bat mitzvah class.

You all are not only longtime members, but are dedicated volunteers and active participants in all that is Adas. From serving as president of the congregation, being a mikvah guide, ushering and greeting on Shabbat mornings, cooking for Hesed, volunteering at the Sisterhood gift shop, etc. I have a hunch that this involvement was instilled at a young age by Leah. Leah, why is volunteering and involvement so important to you? How were you involved in your synagogues and Jewish community growing up in the south?

Leah: My late husband and I were involved in every aspect of Jewish life in Macon (GA) for 40 years because we believed in the continuity of the Jewish people

and felt that being an integral part of organizational life was a way to further that mission. It wasn't easy being Jewish in Macon, but we had many of the same organizations that exist in Washington—synagogues, Federation, Hadassah, Israel Bonds, and so forth. Of course, there were far fewer Jews in Macon than in Washington, so most every Jew in the community was involved in Jewish life. My husband was president of our synagogue and we both chaired Israel Bonds; I was a regional vice president of Hadassah and active in our synagogue. When I got to Washington, I found that being involved in organizations was helpful to integrating into the community; my first year here, I knew very few people at Adas, but each year I knew more and more, many of whom I met from serving on committees and in other organizations.

You all also volunteer in the larger Jewish community. Johanna and Leonard, can you tell us more about the other Jewish organizations you're involved in, what it means to you to give back to the Jewish community, and how you've instilled this practice into your children's lives?

We and our spouses—and now the younger generation, too—are involved in a variety of organizations that speak to our particular interests; Jackie was a board member at Milton (formerly JPDS) for many years, and Randy is a trustee for the Jewish Community Foundation and past executive committee member of the Jewish Federation, as well as one of the founding families of JPDS. Johanna is an officer on Federation's board and is the president-elect of the Edlavitch DC JCC.

Continued on Page 41...



Adas Israel Sisterhood membership continues to grow. Our innovative, informative, and stimulating programs attract a diverse group of warm, engaging, accomplished, and energetic women across the adult life cycle. In this article, we introduce a few of our newest members, who have joined Sisterhood during the past two years. Some are new to Adas Israel, and some have been members of our congregation for many years. Here they explain why they chose to join Sisterhood now. We welcome these dynamic women to Adas Sisterhood and encourage all those who identify as women to join our sisterhood!

my Orthodox grandparents and my upstate New York university town. With six sisters (and three brothers) and a mom active in sisterhood, I was destined to join the Adas Sisterhood.

I am an architect with a background in museum exhibit design. The experience of working with many Jewish institutions and traveling to Israel and Poland has been most meaningful and sparked my interest in getting involved locally. Sisterhood provides a community to channel my experiences and passions into social action, to meet new friends, to learn, to be inspired, and to make a difference.

I look forward to being a part of this active community of women.



Denyse Tannenbaum
Denyse (right), with her mother and her sister.

I have been a member of Adas since my oldest son started preschool, more than 20 years ago, and until this year, I have avoided joining Sisterhood. I had nothing against the organization. In fact, I love the word sisterhood, which conjures up images of beautiful, strong women, laughing, arms around one another, supportive, real. I love the idea of women joining together to do good in the world, to support each other, to have fun. But I'm not a joiner. Maybe it was my first career as a reporter—fair coverage meant impartiality—that contributed to my reluctance to join any clubs or organizations. Or perhaps I am a bit of a misanthrope. I don't know. But for some reason, this year, I took the plunge and joined Adas Sisterhood, and I am here to tell you why.

Her name is Joyce Stern. She is a white-haired, whip-smart, tell-it-like-it-is octogenarian who has gently asked me for several years to sign up, pay the nominal fee, get to know the amazing women who are part of this synagogue's Sisterhood. As anyone who knows her will attest, Joyce is wise, kind, and, when necessary, pushy. Sometimes, all you need is a firm push in the right direction.



Renana Brooks
I have been a member of Adas Israel since my oldest daughter was five years old, and after many years, I have finally joined the synagogue's Sisterhood. The question is: why now? I can assure you that it's not because I suddenly have a lot of free time—

I'm currently in rabbinical school and I have never had less free time in my life! The simplest answer is that now is the moment I am finally open to expanding my involvement in this wonderful community. For 30 years, I have been active in many professional circles as a psychologist in Washington, DC, and as a member of Adas Israel, I have enjoyed Talmud and parsha learning opportunities.

But now, I feel like I've reached a new stage of life, and I can't resist expanding and enriching the community of women with whom I am involved. Adas Sisterhood embraces women who are excited to discuss myriad subjects, such as the power of fiction and what it means for Jewish women, as during this year's opening event. I want to connect with more women in DC and have a group with whom to spend a Shabbaton, go on a retreat, or join in a theater outing.



I can't wait to begin participating more.

Tamar King
I'm a longtime DC resident, and a new Adas Israel and Sisterhood member. I was raised in a reform congregation and influenced by



So here I am. The women in Sisterhood are amazing. And it feels good to be a part of something nurturing and hopeful, especially these days. We need the strength and wisdom, but also the fun and frivolity of sisters.



June Reiner
I am thrilled and excited to be a member of such a wonderful group of women.

I moved to DC from Manhattan shortly before the Covid-19 quarantine. After the pandemic was "over" I officially joined Adas, and at the beginning of 5784 I joined Sisterhood. This is the very first time in my life that I have been a sisterhood member. I am a deep-rooted New Yorker and a feminist to my core. Most important now, I am a kvelling Bubbe to five precious Grands.

I look forward to many exciting adventures and endeavors with you.

Farideh Goldin
As my name indicates, I have multiple identities. Farideh is an Arabic name, one that was very popular in Iran, where I lived until I was 22 years old.



My maiden name, Dayanim, or judges in Hebrew, anchors my identity to that of my grandfather, Mola Meir Moshe, and his ancestors, who were the judges of the Jewish community of Shiraz, Iran.

Goldin, my married name, connects me to my husband's Ashkenazi background.

I live in Norfolk, Virginia, and spend many weekends and almost all holidays in DC, partly because my children and grandchildren are here, and partly because we enjoy the Adas community. I joined Adas Sisterhood a few years to connect with this community, and the experience has been amazing. My grandson celebrated his bar mitzvah in mid-February. I was worried about accommodation for a few shomrei shabbat family members who couldn't walk a long distance. Sisterhood members put me in touch with Alisa Abrams, who graciously arranged for rooms in her residential building near Adas. She is just one example of the warmth and consideration Sisterhood members have shown me.

I am thankful to be part of this sisterhood of wonderful women.

ruth & simon albert sisterhood gift shop

Spring is almost here, daylight saving time has lengthened our days, and the gift shop is continuing to fill our shelves with beautiful merchandise. In addition to fabulous new jewelry, including myriad styles of star of David necklaces, we are stocking up for Purim and Passover. Please visit us to pick out what you want for yourself, to give as gifts, or as additions to your home. We look forward to meeting you and guiding you to the perfect item.

Our hours are:
-Sunday-Monday & Wednesday-Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm
-Tuesday, 9:30am-3:00pm

In addition, if these times are not convenient for you, please email us at adasgiftshop@gmail.com, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Please note that we will be closed the following dates in April in celebration of Passover:
April 23-24 and April 28-30. In addition, we will be closed Easter Sunday, March 31

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel.
202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com





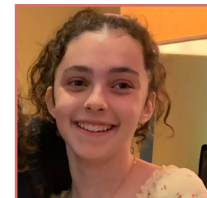
B'NAI MITZVAH



Aviva Apple, daughter of Lisa Zycherman and Keith Apple, is a seventh grader at Washington International School. She has been a member of the Adas Israel community since she was a Kangaroo in the Gan, through religious school, and now Ma'alot. For her mitzvah project, Aviva is organizing a supply drive for the Humane Rescue Alliance pet pantry. Aviva shares this simcha with her sister Dahlia, grandparents Sue and Bernie Zycherman and Marian and Lou Apple, and extended family and friends.



Ari Cohn, son of Michelle and Jonathan Cohn, is in the seventh grade at Alice Deal Middle School. His Jewish education began at the Gan HaYeled and has continued at Adas Israel ever since. He celebrates this simcha with his younger brother Levi; grandmother Carol Klevan (aka Bubbe); grandfather Jerry Cohn; and aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends from across the country. At this special time, we remember with love grandfather Jack Klevan (aka Zayde), grandmother Sidra Rausch, and step-grandfather Howard Rausch. For his mitzvah project, Ari helped prepare and deliver dinner for residents at Joseph's House, which provides care for homeless adults living with HIV/AIDS and terminal cancer.



Sarah Dubin, daughter of Glenn and Jennifer Dubin, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She attends the Ma'alot

program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Sarah shares this simcha with her brother Ben, her grandparents John and Alice Dubin and Stuart and Laurey Borowsky, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. At this special time, she thinks with love about her grandfather, Barry Jacobson, of blessed memory. For her mitzvah project, she focused on hunger, volunteering with Joseph's House and Bread for the City in Washington, DC. By preparing meals, distributing groceries to those in need, and delivering prepared meals, Sarah has learned about different ways the greater DC community helps feed those in need.



Meirav Ephraim is the daughter of Yael Nagler and Dan Ephraim. Meirav is a fifth-generation Adas Israel member. Because Meirav's love of animals (especially dogs and dwarf goats) is a meaningful part of her life, during her most recent trip to Israel she visited the Israel Guide Dog Center, a unique facility committed to specialized training for guide dogs, PTSD service dogs, and emotional support dogs. Her mitzvah project is dedicated to raising funds for the center by raising awareness of the value of service dogs and the range of services they offer. A graduate of Gan Hayaed and a current CES JDS seventh grader, Meirav is joined in celebrating her bat mitzvah with her brother Eli, and many cousins, locally, in Israel and visiting from California. She's especially excited that her Emi, Herlene Nagler, will be standing by her on the bima as she reads torah.



Casey Flax, son of Simone Frank and Lewis Flax, is a sixth grader at Alice Deal Middle School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, following in the footsteps of his big brother Jason. He has continued his Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He shares this simcha with his brother, parents, grandma Elayne Flax, and many family members. At this special time, we remember with love nana Norma Frank. His mitzvah project supports PeacePlayers International, an organization that creates a more equitable and peaceful world through sports (including in Israel and Northern Ireland). Casey is organizing a basketball tournament and fundraiser; if under the age of 13 and interested in playing basketball in support of a good cause, please reach out to Casey's dad at lewisflax@juno.com.



Anna Gehman, daughter of Brenda Zaidman and Mike Gehman, is a seventh grader at the Lowell School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and has continued at Adas Israel ever since. Anna is looking forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her brother Leo, and family and friends. At this special time, we remember with love grandmother Pola Zaidman, of blessed memory.



Jacob Goldsmith, son of Miriam Fishman and Andrew Goldsmith is a seventh grader at Maret School. His religious education took place at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, where his brother Alex is in 4th grade. He continues in the Ma'alot program. Jacob celebrates this simcha with his grandparents, Dina Lassow and Marilynn and Willis Goldsmith as well as extended family from around the country and Israel. Jacob's parents as well as his aunts

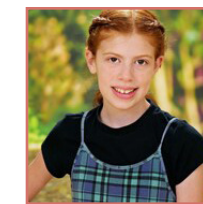
Andrea Fishman and Helene Goldsmith Lee also celebrated their b'not mitzvah at Adas Israel. Jacob enjoys reading, sleepaway camp, and playing squash and football, and he volunteers regularly at a Wider Circle for his mitzvah Project.



Roger Solomon Grant, son of Stacey and Jeremy Grant, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. An alum of Gan HaYeled, he is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He also celebrates and explores his Judaism each summer at Capital Camps. Roger is excited to celebrate his bar mitzvah with his older sister Cecelia, family, and friends. Roger was named for his maternal grandfather, Raymond Fersko (z"l). For his mitzvah project, Roger has been volunteering with Martha's Table and We Are Family in Washington, DC.



Zander Gritz, son of Jennie & Jonathan Gritz, is in seventh grade at Alice Deal Middle School. He's a bookworm, a player of chess and D&D, a drummer, and an amazing son, grandson, brother and friend. He has an excellent Jewish sense of humor and an insatiable appetite for knowledge and understanding. We're grateful to Rabbi Alexander, Cantor Brown, Hazzan Goldsmith, tutor Silvia Edelstein, and all of the incredible teachers at Adas Israel.



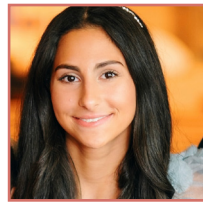
Phoebe Horowitz is a seventh grader at the Maret School in Washington, DC. She had her baby naming at Adas Israel and began her education at Gan HaYeled. As a newborn, she also attended various Adas/Gan committee meetings. Phoebe loves to sew and started a business sewing scrunchies and dog bandanas. For her mitzvah project, she hopes



to bring a Holocaust survivor to speak at her school, and to hold a bake sale to benefit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Phoebe celebrates her simcha with her parents Michael and Alexandra, her siblings Clea and Frederick, and her grandparents and extended family.



He shares this simcha with his brother Jacob, his grandparents Rhonda and Barry Green and Jill and David Kantor, and his aunts, uncles, and cousins. His mitzvah project supports Reach Incorporated, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving children's literacy in Washington, DC.



Ellie Hyman, daughter of Rob and Maya Hyman, is a seventh grader at St. Andrews Episcopal School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and graduated to Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School from kindergarten to fifth grade. Ellie spent many hours preparing for her bat mitzvah with Eleanor Brosowsky, Rabbi Kerrith Solomon, and Hazzan Goldsmith. She shares this simcha with her brother Marcus; her grandmothers Alice Lachman and Judith Hyman; her grandfather Leonard Hyman; and a number of other family members. At this special time she thinks with love of her grandfather, Tzvi Lachman, of blessed memory. Her mitzvah project supports Homes Not Borders and its work furnishing homes for newly arrived refugees in the DC area.



Alexis and Samantha Kirschenbaum, daughters of Adam Kirschenbaum and Steven Sushner, are in the seventh grade at Hardy Middle School. Their Jewish education began at Gan HaYeled and has continued at Adas Israel ever since. They celebrate this simcha with their younger sister Danielle and family.



Gabriel Lasensky, son of Elise Pressma and Scott Lasensky, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. He looks forward to sharing this simcha with his brothers, Alex and Evan; his grandmother, Dorothy Lasensky; his grandfather and nana, C.J. Pressma and Marcelle Gianelloni; and his grandmother, Donna Pressma, along with myriad friends and other family members. At this momentous juncture in time, he also thinks with great love about his zayde, Jerry Lasensky (z"l). For his mitzvah project, Gabriel has chosen to use his passion for cello for good. With a violinist friend he organized a fundraiser Hanukkah concert to benefit the Families of Nir Oz who lost their homes and loved ones on October 7, 2023. He also is raising money for Mount Vernon Virtuosi, a chamber orchestra that fosters artistic growth and professional development for young talented players; brings music to prisons, hospitals, and hospice programs; and provides instrumental education to children who would not otherwise have the opportunity



Milton "Moy" Ezekiel Jinich, son of Rachel and Henry Jinich, is a seventh grader at Hardy Middle School and attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious school. His Jewish education is deeply rooted in family traditions and summers at Camp Ramah in New England. We celebrate with his brothers Abe and Gabi, and his grandparents Farideh Goldin (Ma-joon), Norman Goldin (Pa), Luisa Jinich (Nona), and Leon Jinich (Zeide). For his mitzvah project, Moy and his soccer teammate volunteered at DC Central Kitchen whose mission is to use food as a tool to strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities (dcentralkitchen.org).

Sam Kantor, son of Alycia and Ryan Kantor, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School.



to learn to play.



Harriet Laskey, daughter of Rachel Farbiarz and Alex Laskey, are thrilled to celebrate her bat mitzvah at Adas Israel, where she, alongside her siblings Eliza and Abraham, has frantically scrambled for fruit gems, guzzled copious amounts of soda, and rampaged through the hallways nearly their whole lives. Harriet's family is grateful that she introduced them to Adas Israel as a two-year-old Gan HaYeled student. Harriet has continued her education at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School, where she is now in seventh grade. For her mitzvah project, Harriet is helping support families experiencing homelessness through Friendship Place and Goods for Good. Harriet has also been a regular at the Sunday minyan for the last year in preparation for her bat mitzvah. Her grandparents—Elsa and Boris Farbiarz and Abbie and Richard Laskey—are looking forward to celebrating this simcha.

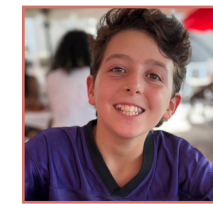


Dina Aviva Leigh, daughter of Julie and Daniel Leigh, celebrates her bat mitzvah with her sisters, Maya and Dalia; her grandparents, Valeria and Mark Freidlin, Scarlet Hassner and Michael Leigh; and family scattered across the US and Europe. Ever the social butterfly, Dina is happy to schmooze with friends at volleyball practice, at Adas Israel Ma'alot, at Shalom Russian school, and at National Cathedral School, where she is a seventh grader.



Henry Levenstein, son of Mark and Sue Levenstein, is in the seventh grade at Tilden Middle School and a lifelong transportation enthusiast. He began his Jewish education as a baby, attending Adas Israel's Tot Shabbat services and has continued at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School ever since. He celebrates

this simcha with his sister Golda, puppy Fig, and other family members, including his Nana Tamara Kaiser, Zayde Eli Levenstein, Grandpa Erik Storlie, Bubbe Debra Levenstein, Hao-Puo Cynthia Lee, Aunt Ghita, Uncle Jeff, and three generations of aunts, uncles, and cousins. At this special time, we remember with love maternal grandfather Fay-Wing Lee, of blessed memory. A new dog owner, Henry's mitzvah project will be to support Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, a nonprofit dedicated to rescuing homeless, neglected, and abandoned animals. In that capacity, he and sister Golda will volunteer as dog handlers at various adoption events throughout the greater DC area to help these animals find their permanent, loving homes.



Benjamin (Ben) Marks, son of Sarah and Adam Marks, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. He shares this simcha with his sister Sienna, his grandparents Ann Lassner, Carol Marks, and Larry Marks, and aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Sadly missed at this special time is Ben's beloved grandfather, Robert Lassner, who passed away in April of last year. Ben began his Jewish studies at Temple Sinai and has continued at Adas Israel over the past two years. He traveled last Pesach to Israel where he deepened his appreciation for his faith and the history of the land, and visited with his Israeli cousins in Tel Aviv. His mitzvah project supports the Adas Israel Hesed Committee by cooking and distributing meals to in-need members of the synagogue's community and to DC-area partner organizations that feed those who are food insecure.



Sebastian Liu Minkove, son of Lilly Liu Minkove and Eric Frank Minkove, is a seventh grader at Maret School. He has attended religious school at Adas Israel since his family moved to



DC when he was in the second grade. He celebrates this simcha with his sisters Audrey and Zoe; his grandmother Royce Minkove; his grandfather (Ye Ye) Zonglin Lewis Liu and grandmother (Lao Lao) Diejun Chen, and many other friends and family. At this special time, we remember with love Grandfather Simon Minkove. Sebastian's mitzvah project helps to combat food insecurity in the DC region and has involved food prep on behalf of Beth El congregation in Baltimore, Edlavitch DCJCC, and DC Central Kitchen, as well as Martha's Table.



Sam Rosenkranz is a 13-year-old at Norwood School in Bethesda. He began his Jewish education at the Gan, and at just five weeks old, Sam had life-saving open heart surgery at Children's National Medical Center, where he is helping to gather donations to the center's toy closet in gratitude for all they have done for him for his mitzvah project. Sam celebrates this simcha with his older sister Reese; his grandparents Ilana and Marc Rosenkranz and Mike and Julie Houghton; his great-grandmother Diane Rosenkranz; and other family and friends. At this special time, he honors his great-grandparents, Joe and Lucy Trisolino, Virginia and Thomas Houghton, Ralph Rosenkranz, great-grandmother Miriam and great-grandfather Solomon Zeev (of blessed memory) after whom he was named.



Josh Rich, son of Lesley and Chuck Rich, is in seventh grade at Alice Deal Middle School. His Jewish education began at Adas's Tot Shabbat services. He shares his simcha with his parents, his grandparents Barbara and Peter Friedell, and his aunt, uncles, and cousins. Josh coupled his love for cooking with his mitzvah project: preparing food for others through the Hesed Committee.



Micah Rosenbaum-Solomon, son of Rabbi Kerrith Solomon and Rabbi Derek Rosenbaum, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. He spent his early years at Gan HaYeled and has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School at Adas Israel. Micah celebrates this simcha with his sister Sadie and his grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, DC family, friends, and pets. At this time he lovingly remembers his grandfather S. Derek Solomon (z"l), who is with the family in spirit. Last summer Micah volunteered at Camp Sarah in Nigeria, and as his mitzvah project he is collecting books and Judaica for the Nigerian Jewish community and fundraising to support more children attending the camp.

Sam Rosenkranz is a 13-year-old at Norwood School in Bethesda. He began his Jewish



Bhavana Rubin, daughter of Nilmini and Joel Rubin, is a seventh grader at Silver Creek Middle School. She began her Jewish education at Temple Sinai and attends the Ma'alot program at Adas Israel. She shares this simcha with her sister Ren, a senior at Costa Rica International Academy; her sister Ari, a sophomore at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School; her grandmother Mithra Ratne; grandparents Lois and Ira Rubin; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. For her mitzvah project, Bhavana's helped stock and furnish an apartment for a Syrian refugee family through the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center and Homes Not Borders.



Evan Samenow, son of Jason Samenow and Deborah Samenow, is in the seventh grade at Alice Deal Middle School. His Jewish education began at the Gan and has continued at Adas Israel ever since. He celebrates this simcha with his sister Abigail and family members, including his grandparents, Dorothy Samenow, and David and Sylvia Silver. At this special time, we



remember his grandfather, Stanton Samenow, of blessed memory.



Nathaniel ("Nat") Shron is in 7th grade at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital, where he has been a student since pre-K. Parents Samantha and Greg and big sister Miriam are excited to celebrate Nat's simcha, along with his grandparents, Paula and John Palmisano and Sonia and Van Shron, and his aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. An avid ice hockey player, Nat is holding a "skate-a-thon" to raise money and awareness for World Central Kitchen, started right here in Washington, DC, by chef Jose Andres.



Aaron Sokolov, son of Elizabeth and Dan Sokolov, will celebrate his bar mitzvah with his parents, older brother Avi, and friends and family, including his grandmothers Linda Rosenkrantz and Carol Sokolov. Aaron is a seventh grader at DC International School, where he studies in the Spanish bilingual track. In the summer, he attends the Jewish sleepaway camp Pinemere in the Poconos. He has attended religious school at Adas for many years, and currently attends the Ma'alot program. For his bar mitzvah project, Aaron—a dog lover—is volunteering with Lucky Dog Rescue, where he helps dogs find their forever homes at weekend adoption fairs. At this special time, we remember grandfathers Walter Rosenkrantz and Uriel Sokolov, who would have loved to see this day.

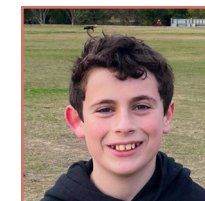


Avi Steiner, son of Nienke Grossman and Ezequiel Steiner, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. He began his Jewish education at Adas's Gan HaYeled, his parents were married by Adas's rabbi emeritus Jeffrey Wohlberg, and his parents and maternal

grandparents are longtime Adas members. Avi is grateful to have celebrated his simcha with family and friends from the DMV, California, Chile, Florida, and Israel, including his brother Asher; his grandparents, Claudio and Irene Grossman (Washington, DC) and Mirta and Alberto Steiner (Raana, Israel); and aunts, uncles, and cousins. For his bar mitzvah project, Avi raised money for Kibbutz Nir Oz, which was attacked on October 7, 2023, including by playing violin at a Hannukah benefit concert.



Aaron Martin Wiesenfelder, son of Beth Werlin and Michael Wiesenfelder, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School and has been a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since pre-K. Aaron celebrated his bar mitzvah on November 18 with his sister Sarah Rose; his parents and his grandparents, Cheryl and Robert Werlin and Phyllis and Leslie Wiesenfelder; and his aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Aaron is the second generation to celebrate his bar mitzvah at Adas Israel, following his father, uncle, and aunt.



Michael Wolitz, a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School, began his formal Jewish education at Heska Amuna Synagogue of Knoxville, TN, and has attended Adas Israel Religious School since 2020. He is grateful to have shared this simcha with many friends and family members, including his younger brother Joshua and his two sets of grandparents, Deb and Syd Sewall of Hallowell, ME, and (via livestream) Louise and Seth Wolitz of Austin, TX.



SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Abortion Comfort Care Kits

In Honor Of: Lesley Foster by June Reiner, Sharon Cohany.
On Behalf Of: Reproductive rights by Denys Resnick, Ella & Howard Iams, Jane Baldinger, Joan & Robert Nachman, John Riehl, Karen Bonnie & Seth Eaton, Kay & Scott Dawson, Khazanov Family Trust, Kimberly & Steven Aftergood, Linda Bergofsky, Maria Laszlo-Sloan, Megan Draheim, Stephanie Shuchart, Susan Levine, Therese I. Salus.
In Memory Of: Harriet Belkin by Jennifer Lish & family.

Adas Community Security Fund

On Behalf Of: Community Security Fund by anonymous, Gena & Daniel Feith, Julie & Neil Reinhard, Lisa Gill, Manny Schiffres.
In Memory Of: Eitan Kapitcher & family by Mark Chao.

Adas Fund

In Memory Of: Marilyn Kincaid by William Kincaid.

Ann & Lou Chelec Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: Ann & Lou Chelec by Zalman & Lois Chelec.

Anne Frank House Fund

In Honor Of: Gloria Buckberg's special birthday by Sonia Gichner.
Refuah Shlemah To: Nechama Liss-Levinson by Jaquie & Michael Resnick.
In Memory Of: Anne Buring by Benjamin & Shelly Buring, Mordche Medvinsky by Mindy Saraco & Mike Madden, Elaine Kremens by Rabbi Jan Kaufman, Gaye Shupe Barker, Lena & Mayer Lazerow, Fanny Lazerow & Rae Schwartzall by Sheryl Fahey, Richard Cohen by the Krieger-Cohen family.

Barbara Abrams Cohen Memorial Library Fund

In Memory Of: Lenore Spira by Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

In Memory Of: Jamie Cecil, Dolores Tomaino, & Regina K. Friedman, all by Judith Friedman & Joe Cecil.
Jamie Cecil by Vicky Weisz & Alan Tomkins.

Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: Gerald Gelman Kossow by John & Renny Kossow. Judie Linowes by Pat & Robert Mulligan.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: Bat mitzvah of Abigail King by Heather Rothman & Peter King. Cantor Brown by Karen Dunn & Brian Netter, the Davis family
In Gratitude For: The love & support from Cantor Brown around Josh's bar mitzvah by Melanie Nussdorf.
In Gratitude To: Cantor Brown by Vivienne Stark, Alma Gildenhorn.

Capital Fund Contributions

In Memory Of: Judie Linowes by Annie Blakley.

Charles Pilzer Computer Center

In Memory Of: Alyson "Ally" Pilzer & Jean Greenberg Fogel by Geraldine Pilzer.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: My bat mitzvah by Adelaida Acevedo. Manny Schiffres by Melanie Nussdorf, Toby Dershowitz.
On Behalf Of: Daily minyan by anonymous, Michael Lieberman & Dr. Randi Abramson, Arthur L. Levy.
Purchase of a new Owl for the daily minyan by Manny Schiffres, Ruth Berman, Sheldon Kimmel.
In Memory Of: Benjamin & Naomi Roth by Alan Roth. Lynette Spira, Rabbi Emanuel Goldsmith, & Ellen Feis Levy by Bill Levenson. Esther Shapson by Eddie Shapson. Lenore Yellen by Ilene Chait. Emma & Abraham Shapiro by Janet & Lee Oppenheim, Sheldon Kimmel. Alberto Socolovsky by Jerome Socolovsky.
Judie Linowes by Julie & Ron Thalheimer. Rabbi Emanuel Goldsmith by Laurie Alban Havens. Shmuel bar Chaim Josef by Marshall Cohen. Cynthia Weiner by Stacy Weiner & Yoel Tobin. Hilde Michele & Alfred Simenauer by Stephanie & David Lynn. Richard Cohen by the Krieger-Cohen family.

Dan Kaufman Children's Program Fund

In Honor Of: Daniel Francis Kaufman becoming a bar mitzvah by Dale Kaufman.

Doris Herman Gan Teacher Recognition Fund

In Honor Of: Susie Wedlan by Betsy Hockstein.

Dr. & Mrs. Stanley W. Kirstein Gan Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: Lawyer Alfred Mallory by

Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

Dr. William & Vivienne Stark Wedding & Anniversary Fund

In Memory Of: Gisa Stark by Vivienne Stark.

Gan Donations

On Behalf Of: The Gan by Emily & Peter Gardner, Stephanie Sherman.

Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund

In Honor Of: Religious school by Deborah Hershfield-Campos & Marcio Campos. Elana & Sam Dunn becoming b'nai mitzvah by Ken Goldman.
In Memory Of: Toby Kahn by Risa, Noah, Ari & Rebecca Carp. Yiggi Barkan (Joseph Bruckenstein) by Cindy & Glenn Easton. Harriet Belkin by Mia Walker & Julian Muller.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: Shirley Kaufman, Judie Linowes, & Marvin Kay, all by Dorothy Block.

Fetterman-Fonoroff Endowment Fund

On Behalf Of: The synagogue by Fetterman-Fonoroff Fund.

Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

In Honor Of: Lippman Miller by Lenore Miller.

In Memory Of: Frances Burka by John & Renny Kossow.

Frances Friend Fund

On Behalf Of: The synagogue by Frances Friend Fund.

Fund for the Future

On Behalf Of: The synagogue by Harold & Jane Hirsh Fund.

Garden of the Righteous

In Honor Of: Judy Strauch's birthday and Gail Schwartz's birthday by Jean Bernard, Jane Baldinger.
In Memory Of: Rhoda Connick by David Connick.

Gonzalez Family

On Behalf Of: Gonzalez family by Joanie Liebermann & Jeffrey Vinnik.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Gratitude To: David Bickart & the Adas Israel community upon the death of my father, Philip Wilens by Leslie Curley.
In Memory Of: Judy Linowes by Andrea

SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

Jaron & Larry Bircoll, Anne & Alan Teatle, Bunny & Paul Weinstein, Burt & Diane Epstein, Carol & Michael Winer, Debbie Taylor, Donna Tydings, Glenn & Cindy Easton, Irene & Edward Kaplan, Irene Bartram & family, Irma Poretsky, Janice Broner, Jodi Tucker & Tim Hughes, Joshua Lavine, Marvin & Madeleine Kalb, Mary Ann Sack, Nancy & Alan Bubes & family, Nancy & Marc Duber, Patt Silver, Jeff Trauberman & family Renee & Wayne Hochberg, Renée Fendrich, Robin Berman, Steve, Nathan & Evan Harris, Susan & Arnold Quint, Susan & Zola Makrauer, Susi Saxl & Robert Kramer, Tina & Albert Small.

Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: Bat mitzvah of Abigail King by Heather Rothman & Peter King.
In Honor Of: Hazzan Goldsmith by Karen Dunn & Brian Netter. Hazzan Goldsmith on the occasion of Priy's bat mitzvah by the Kasargod-Staub family.
In Gratitude For: The love & support provided by Hazzan Goldsmith around Josh's bar mitzvah by Melanie Nussdorf.
In Loving Memory Of: Rabbi Emanuel Goldsmith by Pam, Talia & Nathan Ehrenberg Ehrenberg, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Betsy Strauss, Jane Baldinger, Lois & Michael Fingerhut, Myra & Larry Promisel.
In Memory Of: Rabbi Emanuel Goldsmith by Nancy & Alan Bubes, Patti Lieberman & Jeff Knishkowsky, Renée Fendrich, Ricki Gerger, Rita Segerman, Ronald & Rise Schlesinger, Susan & Richard Ugelow.

Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund

In Honor Of: Melanie Nussdorf by Anat Bar-Cohen, Renée Fendrich. Joshua Nussdorf becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Renée Fendrich.
For the Speedy Recovery Of: Michael Rodgers by Alan Roth. Nechama Liss-Levenson by Rabbi Jan Kaufman.
On Behalf Of: Hesed Committee by Carolyn Rogers. Adas Israel's hesed programs by Lisa Schnall, Sheldon Kimmel, Stephanie Wethington & Eliana Yolcut.
In Recognition Of: Joshua Rich becoming a bar mitzvah by Sushma Soni & Jeff Bartos.
In Loving Memory Of: Steven Kay on his birthday by Dolly Kay.
In Memory Of: Benjamin & Naomi Roth by Alan Roth. Louis & Sylvia Rusoff by Gail & Don Roach. Judie Linowes by Nancy Mannes. Ellen Levy by Patti Lieberman & Jeff Knishkowsky. Eva Steiner Wellisch by Renée Fendrich.

Ida Mendelson Memorial Prayer Book Fund

In Honor Of: Alexander family b'nai mitzvah by Herlene & Yaacov Nagler.

Israel Aid Fund

On Behalf Of: Needs of Lod, Israel, by Nancy Laben & Jonathan Feiger.

Jennie Litvack Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: Jennie Litvack by Marvin Feuer. Dr. David Pollock & Rabbi Dr. Emanuel S. Goldsmith by Rob Satloff.

Jonah & Rita Schiffres Yiddish Music & Language Fund

In Memory Of: Rabbi Emanuel Goldsmith by Sheri Brown.

Lazarus Foundation Early Childhood Library Fund

In Memory Of: Gayle Snitman-Rubin by Mark Rubin.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Honor Of: Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt's sabbatical by Rhoda Ganz.
In Memory Of: Lawyer A. Mallory by Rhoda Ganz, Stephanie & Fred Laangsam.

Michael Stern Torah Study Scholarship Fund

On Behalf Of: Michael Stern Fund by Sheldon Kimmel.
In Memory Of: Michael Stern by Asimina Coroneos, Sheldon Kimmel.

Mozelle Saltz Memorial Endowment Fund

Mazel Tov To: Adelaida Acevedo on your bat mitzvah by Elissa Barpal.

Offerings Fund

In Honor Of: Molly Levinson & Josh Wachs by Cathy Levinson. Michael Wolitz becoming a bar mitzvah by Deb & Syd Sewall. B'nai mitzvah of Samuel & Elana Dunn by Florence & Laurence Meyer. Ricki Gerger by Leslie Hertz. Sandy & Howard Marks by Marjorie & Richard Siegel. Orly Jossen becoming a bat mitzvah by Robert & Roni Jossen.
On Behalf Of: The synagogue by Allyn Kilsheimer, Wendy & Norman Eisenberg.
For the Speedy Recovery Of: Arlen J., Carol P., MaryAnne B., Jack P., Arthur T., Stanley F., & Eliyahu ben Zeld, all by Ian Jacobson.
In Loving Memory Of: Charlotte Schwartz by Carol Soble & Michael Shibley.
In Memory Of: My grandparents by Alan Epstein. Judie Linowes by Alma Gildenhorn, Denise Silverberg, Jay Freedman, Lori Horwitz, Marky & Bo Kirsch, Phyllis & Morton Lessans, Rita

Segerman. Toby Levinson Kahn by Abbe Carp, Arlene & Ross Moskowitz, Beth & Albert Blumberg, Dickstein PT, Laurie & Harry Landsburg. Harriet Belkin by Chris Kunitz, Donna Nadler & Bob Gould, Jackie Deitsch, Jeremy Cassano, Joseph Parente, Marsha Klass, Martha Jimenez & Ken Bandler, Mimi & Michael Kress, Patrick Elliott, Sandra Zuckerman, Susan Bandler & Joel Korn, William Fisher, Your colleagues at Delaney Stafford LLC. Eric Heckman by Debbie Taylor. Eva Steiner Wellisch by Deborah Miller & Adam Strickberger, Rachel & Rob Rubin. Suzanne Davidov Racoosin & Stanley A. Racoosin by Esther Racoosin. Victims of the war in Ukraine, the savagery in Eretz Yisrael, the wars in Gaza, Eretz Yisrael & the West Bank & wars & injustice worldwide by Ian Jacobson. Jeffrey Kelman by Jane Baldinger, Sandy & Norton Elson. Miriam Cohen by Janet Oppenheim. Debra Becker by Joanna Holzman. Evelyn Ettemane by Joyce Bonnett. Robin Rothstein Berman by Kathleen & Arthur Liberman. Lynette Spira by Livia & David Jonas Bardin. Stacey Davis by Monica Goldberg. Zella Watters by Nancy Watters. Zella Horwitz by Paulette & David Kessler. Sonia Drachman by Ronnie Drachman. David "Tommy" Hutman by Sheila Hutman, his children & grandchildren.

R. Robert Linowes Library Bookshelf Fund

In Memory Of: Toni Singer by Harold Singer.

Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: Rabbi Alexander by Andrew Shapiro, Davis family. Bar mitzvah of Ariel Alexander by Betsy Strauss, Renée Fendrich.
In Gratitude For: Rabbi Alexander around Josh's bar mitzvah by Melanie Nussdorf.
In Gratitude To: Rabbi Alexander by Vivienne Stark.
Mazel Tov To: Rabbis Penina & Aaron Alexander on Ariel & his cousins becoming b'nai mitzvah by Debra Rubin. Ariel Alexander on becoming a bar mitzvah by Jane Baldinger.
With Thanks To: Rabbi Alexander by the Chernikoff & Berman families.
In Memory Of: Jack Slater by Nancy, Dan & Jory Weiss.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

In Gratitude For: Rabbi Holtzblatt on the event of Josh's bar mitzvah by Melanie Nussdorf.
In Gratitude To: Rabbi Holtzblatt by Vivienne Stark.
In Honor Of: Rabbi Holtzblatt by Karen





Dunn & Brian Netter, Lisa & Mitchell Eisen, Stuart Kurlander & David Martin.
On Behalf Of: Rabbi Yolkut's mission to Israel by Rachel Farbiarz & Alexander Laskey.

In Memory Of: Barbara Perlman Lesser by Jill Lesser. Sylvia Slater by Nancy, Dan & Jory Weiss.

Rabbi Krinsky Discretionary Fund

In Gratitude For: Rabbi Krinsky on the event of Josh's bar mitzvah by Melanie Nussdorf.

In Gratitude To: Rabbi Krinsky by Vivienne Stark.

In Honor Of: Abigail King's bat mitzvah by Heather Rothman & Peter King. Rabbi Krinsky by Jonathan Levin.

Rabbi Solomon Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: Rabbi Solomon for helping Priya become a bat mitzva by the Kasargod-Staub family.

In Memory Of: Judie Linowes by Patti Schacht.

Return Again/Community Shabbat Fund

On Behalf Of: Return Again service by Lauren Weinstein.

Rhoda Goldman Memorial Religious School Endowment

In Honor Of: Birth of Oscar Zev Gelman Kamer, grandson of Michael & Susie Gelman & son of Rachel Gelman & Asa Kamer by Rhoda Ganz.

Rosa & Simon Laupheimer Fund

On Behalf Of: the Rosa & Laupheimer Fund by Phyllis & Phillip Margolius.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Loving Memory Of: D'vorah Nechama: Dolores Naomi Tomaino by Rabbi/Cantor Arnold Saltzman.

In Memory Of: Lawyer Alfred Mallory, Elaine Kremens, Judie Linowes, Norman Freudberg, Delores Tomaino, Harriet Belkin, all by Elinor Tattar

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Memory Of: Benjamin Madden, Sarah Leventhal, Noah Mass, Richard Mass, all by Brian & Judy Madden. Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, Supreme Court Justice, UN Ambassador, Secretary of Labor, Adas Israel member by Rabbi/Cantor Arnold Saltzman

Schachter-Gerger Family Fund

In Memory Of: Harry Schachter, Rabbi Louis Schachter, Irving Gerger, Sylvia Brown, all by Ricki Gerger.

Sisterhood (MEMBERS) Donations

In Honor Of: Stephanie Kay's birthday by Dolly Kay.

On Behalf Of: Sisterhood by Ann Schwartz.

In Memory Of: Craig Kay by Dolly Kay. Harriet Belkin by Renée Fendrich. Marilyn Kincaid by William Kincaid.

Social Action Fund

For the Speedy Recovery Of: Nechama Liss-Levinson; we're sending strength, healing thoughts & prayers for complete healing & recovery by Suzy & Gary Miller. In Honor Of: Lois & Michael Fingerhut by Jennifer Madans.

In Memory Of: Lawyer Mallory by Betsy Strauss. My beloved husband Craig (Fisher) by Gail Fisher. Harry & Jean Lazar by Marion & Michael Usher. Arnold Weiss by Nancy, Dan & Jory Weiss. Judy Shulman. Our sincere condolences; may her memory be for a blessing by Susan & Richard Ugelow. Jeffrey Liss by Susan Liss & family.

On Behalf Of: Synagogue's social action programs by anonymous, Lydia & Sandy Parnes. People of Lod, Israel by Zev Lewis

Sophie Silfen Shalom Tinok Fund

In Loving Memory Of: Sophie Silfen by Jane Baldinger.

In Memory Of: Dr. Jeffrey Kelman by Susan Miller.

Staff Gift Fund

In Honor Of: Adas Israel staff by Adas Israel Sisterhood, Leah Chanin, Veneeta Acson & Howard Streicher. Dedicated Adas Israel staff by Alan Roth & Michael Rodgers. Wonderful job done by the Adas Israel staff by Audrey & Ron Hoffer. Hardworking Adas staff by Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

With Thanks For: All the Adas Israel staff does by Leslie Chernikoff-Berman & David Berman.

In Memory Of: Lawyer Alfred Mallory, Jimmy Young by Cindy & Glenn Easton. Lawyer A. Mallory; it was a moving & beautiful service & your family is amazing by Jane Baldinger. Lawyer Alfred Mallory by Myra & Larry Promisel, Rona & Paul Walters, Sheri Brown.

In Memory Of: Charles Mallory's beloved father by Ronald & Rise Schlesinger.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund

On Behalf Of: Traditional Egalitarian Minyan by Shana & Robert Zuckerman.

In Loving Memory Of: Your wonderful mother & grandmother, Shirley Berman; with love by Patti Lieberman, Jeff, Aaron & Noah Knishkowy.

In Memory Of: Shirley Berman, Stacey Davis by Bill Levenson.

In Memory Of: Stacy Berman, Marilyn Kincaid, Helene Carol Riffle, William Flank, Joel Millstein, Ellen Levy, Shirley Hoffenberg, Lynette Spira, Rabbi Emanuel S. Goldsmith, Alice Worth, Maria Socolovsky, all by Judith Hellerstein.

Tzedakah Fund

In Memory Of: Reuben I. Wolfson by Charles & Nancy Wolfson. Eve Steiner Wellisch, Zella Horwitz, Joseph Gildenhorn, all by Cindy & Glenn Easton.

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In Memory Of: Isidore Cross by Alan & Diane Cross. Sarah Friedman (Sarah at Israel Dov) by Barry Friedman. Samuel J. Friedlander by Bernice Friedlander. Rose Leibowitz, Sylvia Weinstein by Bunny Weinstein. Charles Lerner by Carole Lerner. Fannie Bean by Gloria Buckberg. My beloved parents by Helen Toiv. Stan Sherman by Iona Klayman. My wonderful grandmother, Sarah Seldin Deutch, my beloved father, Stanley Kaufman, my beloved grandmother, Alice Davidson Dravetz Deutch, all by Jan Kaufman. Shirley P. Hardis, Leonard Hardis by Jonathan Hardis. Evelyn by Joyce Bonnett. Ruth Binn by Leonard Binn. Solomon Friss by Lynn Feinberg. Chayim Davarashvili by Margaret Gilboa. Fred Horowitz by Michael & Alex Horowitz. Joseph B. Gildenhorn by Rita Segerman. Abe "Al" Brostoff by Sandra Brostoff. Moshe Glazer by Tziporah Fromberg. Janet Streicher & Harvey Aiges by Veneeta Acson & Howard Streicher.

Youth Department Activities Fund

In Honor Of: Rabbi Solomon for her care & support of the bat mitzvah of Elizabeth Hyman by Maya & Robert Hyman.

Your father, Arnold Haskel by Ellen & Stanley Albert.

Dvorah bas Yehuda by Joyce Wood.



Our kids have found it meaningful to engage with groups like the Jewish law students association, Adas's Hesed committee, and Chabad on campus; the youngest of our DC kids, Ethan, is leaving shortly (as of the time this article is being written) to volunteer in Israel for six weeks. Being involved in the broader Jewish community is fulfilling, and we know that when our kids see our engagement with and support for organizations that enrich Jewish life, it influences their own choices for how to be contributing members of the Jewish community. Many of the choices we made as parents—sending our kids to Jewish day school and Jewish summer camps—were equally formative in our kids' identities. Plus, our kids revere and adore their "Mimi," as Leah is widely known within and beyond our family, so the example she has set serves as a roadmap for them, too.

Can you tell us more about some of the traditions you have as a family? I know Leah hosts a big Rosh Hashanah lunch for the entire family each year. What traditions do you have when you're all together? When you're celebrating with your own immediate family, do you have different traditions?

With some exceptions, our tradition is to have no tradition—we like to mix it up! Rarely is there a repeat menu for Rosh Hashanah or Shabbat dinner; one seder almost never resembles the seders from years past. But we do have a few holiday traditions: Leah brought each of us wonderful sukkah decorations back from her many travels over the years, many of which still hang in Jackie and Leonard's sukkah. And about 20 years ago, Johanna learned to make challah (and developed a number of creative varieties), which she then taught to Jackie who, like all the best students, has exceeded her teacher. We haven't had a store-bought challah in decades! As for different traditions in our immediate families, Leonard insists on using an unusual tune for Shalom Aleichem on Friday night that no one can sing and that no one else uses at their own Shabbat tables. Otherwise, we're pretty in step with one another.

By the time this Chronicle comes out, we will be thinking about Pesach (sorry for making you think about it in January). I can only imagine what the Chanins do for Pesach. I know from Hesed Cooking that Leonard and Leah are amazing cooks. How do you decide who hosts each year? Do you have any special traditions that you do as a family? What are some of the famous Chanin dishes for Pesach?

Passover—the annual Chanin family drama! First, there is the drama over who will host...not who has to host, but who gets to host. And then there is the drama of the seder itself; our dad used to say that the Passover seder was the longest-running play in history. We try to make it interesting and engaging and challenging for everyone at our table, often selecting a theme for the seder or asking participants to prepare a (sometimes provocative) topic for discussion. As for foods, Leah used to prepare a fruit compote that no one ever ate...made it at Passover; threw it out at Rosh Hashanah. That perennial and uncharacteristic misstep aside, she has long made a true family favorite – the most addictive candy on earth – a recipe that's several generations old, called "emberlach." It's a honey-ginger-pecan-farfel [crumbled matzoh] confection without which no Passover is complete. Forget the Afikomen...hold out for the farfel candy!

When you're not celebrating Jewish holidays together, what else do you love to do as a family?

We gather for a lot (a lot!) of family occasions (there are two more siblings – our sister, Rebecca and her husband, Alan, in Northern Va. and brother, Scott, and his wife, Belinda, in Houston – plus we have 18 first cousins, not counting their spouses and the families of our spouses!). We go to a lot of graduations, weddings and b'nai mitzvah. We usually take a trip together to celebrate milestone birthdays...we even accompanied Randy and Johanna on their honeymoon ten years ago! Day to day, though, we love to critique each other's cooking (it's a blood sport for us) and trade stories about our kids (as they are inevitably doing about us!).



BIRTHS

- Sarah Waxmen & Britt Binler welcomed their child, Zahava Eva Binler, on August 14.
- Lisa Kohn & Hannah Katch welcomed their child, Naomi Layla Katch Kohn, on August 14.
- Orly Klein, daughter of Janet Kolodner, welcomed their child, Micah Lior Klein, on August 19.
- Rachel Berman-Vaporis welcomed their child, Aelia Dvora Berman-Vaporis, on September 19.
- Adam Bieber, son of Sandy Bieber & Linda Rosenzweig, and Eva Bieber welcomed their child, Arielle Rowe Bieber, on September 22.
- Sasha Taskier, daughter of Dr. Paul & Claudia Taskier, and Tyler Felous welcomed their child, Asher Emanuel Taskier-Felous, on October 13.
- Lucy & Seth Litt welcomed their child, Isaiah Leslie Litt, on October 26.
- Michael Melmed, son of Laura & Allan Melmed, and Talia Barrett welcomed their child, Lila Esther Melmed, on November 4.
- Emma Nechamkin & Graham Haviland welcomed their child, Samara Leah Haviland on February 5th
- Roxanne Levy Rubinger & Juan Lleras welcomed their child, Nina Lleras-Levy, on November 13.
- Lisa Easton, daughter of Cindy & Glenn Easton, and Kenny Davis welcomed their child, Jaycee Harper Davis, on November 29.

- Jay Gross, son of Ava & Neal Gross, and Alexis Boleda Gross welcomed their child, Naia Rose Boleda Gross, on December 6.
- Lilly Hubschman-Shahar & Yoni Shahar, welcomed their child, Isla Yarden Shahar, on December 23.
- Paul Adlerstein, son of Terrie Gale & Bob Adler, and Erin Adlerstein welcomed their child, Zalman Aitan Adlerstein, on January 2.
- Shelley & Scott Huges welcomed their child, Sarah Gabrielle Hughes, on February 7.

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

WEDDINGS

Jennifer Schaffer & Eric Feinberg were married on February 4th

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

- Stanley Albert
- Yosef Yigal Barkan
- Harriet G. Belkin
- Robin Berman
- Stacey Davis
- Faezeh Foroutan
- Joseph B. Gildenhorn
- Bertha Glickman
- Michael Gordon
- David Hutman
- Toby Kahn
- Jeffrey Kelman
- Elaine Kremens
- Lois Levitan
- Judie Linowes
- Eva A. Rehfeld
- Judith Shulman
- Lynnette H. Spira
- Celia Steingold

- Elkaim
- William Flank, father of Shalom Flank
- Carolyn Gold, sister of Susan Tejada
- Merle Goldman, mother of Seth Goldman
- Rabbi Emanuel S. Goldsmith, father of Hazzan Goldsmith
- Grace Cohen Grossman, mother of Dov Grossman
- Steven Greffenius, father of Robert Greffenius
- Henry Haberfeld, father of Caroline Friedman
- Shirley Hoffenberg, mother of Mark Hoffenberg & Lynne Edelstein
- Zella Horwitz, mother of Sari Horwitz
- Gershon David Hundert, brother-in-law of Billy Mencow
- Howard Jacobson, father of Michael Jacobson
- Scott Kangas, father of Sara Kangas
- Joel Koppleman, father of Charles Koppelman-Milstein
- Rose Koppelman, mother of Charles Koppelman-Milstein
- Mildred Guberman Kravetz, mother of Karen Guberman
- Michele Laws, sister of Joseph Jones
- Barbara Perlman Lesser, mother of Jill Lesser
- Eva Levitt, mother of Marc Levitt
- Ellen Feis Levy, mother of Patricia Levy-Zuckerman
- Sondra Lubin, mother of Shary Levitt
- David Michael Magder, father of Dan Magder
- Barbara Gale Pass, sister of Terrie Gale
- Dr. Noach Ravin, father of Aynat Ravin
- Margot Helene Rund, mother of Jaime Frank

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

- Dr. Arthur B. Abt, father of Eileen Abt
- Martha Baumgarten, wife of Clive Baumgarten and mother of David Baumgarten
- Debra Becker, mother of Ben Becker
- Gordon Berger, father of Lawrence Berger
- Shirley Berman, mother of Geoffrey Berman
- Danny N. Betman, uncle of Adam Betman
- Richard Boyd, husband of Susan Calderon
- Robert Leon Chazan, father of Daniel Chazan
- Tilda Finzi Cohen, mother of Sandra Kalter
- Phyllis Estelle Davis, grandmother of Laura Robbins
- Robin Bea Elkaim, mother of Zachary

- Abigail Elstein Schine, mother of Richard Paul
- Harry Shrank, father of Will Shrank
- Maria Aida Socolovsky, mother of Jerome Socolovsky
- Dolores Tomaino, sister of Arnold Saltzman
- Gudrun Weinberg, mother of Tanya Weinberg Yahana
- Eva Steiner Wellisch, mother of David Wellisch
- Philip Wilens, father of Leslie Curley
- Marilyn Miller Winer, Mother of Sandy Winer
- Alice Worth, mother of Nancy Worth
- Beverly Zeldin, mother of Michael Zeldin

When Death Occurs
When death occurs, please call the synagogue emergency line answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the staff member on call. We will be back in touch to support you promptly.

Bereavement Committee
The Bereavement Committee assists families with all of the arrangements surrounding the funeral and subsequent burial of loved ones. We welcome your interest and encourage your participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone whom you think might be interested in participating in this important work, please feel free to call Billy Begal (bbegal@begal.net), or contact Toni Bickart (202- 244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee, or Wendy Kates about Shmira (wendy.kates.30@gmail.com).

The Adas Israel Funeral Package

Did you know... that for the past year we created **The Adas Israel Funeral Package** working directly with the Adas Israel decision makers.

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ADAS ISRAEL DAILY MINYAN

In Mourning: The Unexpected Comfort of Morning Minyan

FULL REMARKS BY: JOANIE LIEBERMANN

Mourning ... My Road to Morning Minyan and Beyond

At the end of the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy awakens in Kansas, addresses Auntie Em and Uncle Henry, and then points to her neighbors gathered at her bedside. "It was a place," she says of Oz, "and you and you and you and you were there." Well, you have all been here in this place with me these eleven months, in person and on zoom, and you are all in this essay I have written to mark the end of my daily recitation of Kaddish for my father, Frank, born Franz, Liebermann. What I will read today are some excerpts from my reflections about that experience. The piece is essentially divided into three parts: my reaction to my father's death, all the reasons I saw myself as an unlikely minyan attendee, and all that I gained coming as regularly as I did. I will read mostly from the first and last sections. You are free to read the essay in its entirety when it is sent to the Daily Minyan email list. Some of you are more identifiable in the piece than others, but each of you, in your own way, has contributed to my minyan home and my mourning. I could not have completed this phase of my journey without you.

So here goes....

"I'm done, Joanie," my 93-year-old father announced in his distinctive German accent. His voice on my phone was calm and strong. "OK, Dad," I replied, holding back tears, trying to be as matter of fact as he was. It was 6 AM, Yom Kippur, 2022, the very day his paternal grandfather died in Theresienstadt eighty years before. "I'll be at the hospital as soon as I can; we'll talk to your palliative care team, I said. "I love you, Dad." He relied on me, as the physician in the family, to navigate his medical care, and he was in a hospital I knew well.

His choice to stop treatment was no surprise, the inevitable outcome of our conversation the day before. The speech pathologist had confirmed chronic aspiration into his already hypoxic lungs, the likely result of central nervous system damage to his swallowing mechanisms in the midst of a massive upper GI bleed. My father was no foodie; he proudly told his trainers that he only ate to live and he was pleased that he could still wear the same pair of pants he wore in high school. But he couldn't imagine a life without eating what he chose. I had already asked our children to come home

to DC. With remarkable speed, our son and daughter-in-law had flown in from England. Shortly, our daughter would board a train from Brooklyn.

What did come as a surprise was his current physical state. Just three weeks before, my father had danced at our son and daughter-in-law's UK wedding, not far from their Brighton home. He and his beloved 89-year-old companion glowed, their radiance second only to that of the bride and groom. Their four-and-a-half-year romance had given me a father I had never known: warmer, kinder, more attentive and generous. After the wedding, he and his love ventured to Glasgow on their own. He traversed airports at his familiar rapid clip. He swam his usual half-mile the day following their return to the US. He was planning his next European excursion. I was so relieved: no COVID, no falls, no car accidents.

So how could it be, that two days after Yom Kippur and two before Sukkot, I was sleeping beside him, the two of us, alone in a hospital room as he took his last breath? My father got the death he wanted: chosen, deliberate, quick.

I was in shock.

I had always believed that Jews do death well, that shiva allowed mourners to be surrounded and comforted by family and friends, to laugh, to cry, to remember the loved one lost. But for our immediate family, that was not to be. Traditional Jewish law annulled the seven days of initial mourning with the beginning of a festival, in this case Sukkot. Moreover, our British daughter-in-law tested positive for COVID the day my father died; our son followed suit. They quarantined in our attic. I left meals at the bottom of the stairs. Our daughter, her wife and toddler could not be in our home.

My husband and I, not wanting to infect one another should one of us become COVID positive, distanced ourselves from each other. Any in-person get-togethers simply could not occur, including one organized by my sister just a mile away. My immunocompromised brother remained on the West coast. With rabbinic blessing, we settled on a Zoom meeting as some form of gathering to celebrate my father's life. Family, friends and colleagues lingered on the screen long after the very brief service and formal remarks. So many

reminiscences ... No one wanted to say good-bye. I was grateful for the scaffolding of community, but yearned for human touch.

Unable to see anyone, I spent the next week walking our schipperke on neighborhood streets and on trails in Rock Creek Park, grateful for good weather, nature's salve, and the company of a living creature. I continued my brisk solitary early morning walks, a legacy of my childhood attempts to keep pace with my father's longer strides. Each step was a connection: memories of Turkey trots, hikes out West, bustling midtown Manhattan streets, travels in distant lands. I sought my father's presence in the rise of the sun, the rustle of fallen leaves, the bubbling of the creek. I couldn't believe he would never experience such moments again.

Beyond those daily walks, I had no idea how to mourn my father. When my mother died five years before after a long debilitating illness, my neighbor kindly invited me to morning minyan the day after the funeral. Though a regular at Shabbat services, I was a stranger to the daily service. Its siddur, rapid-fire Hebrew, and choreography eluded me; I felt uneducated, intimidated, and self-conscious amongst so small a group. Saying Kaddish on Shabbat mornings seemed like a better choice. But after my father's death, I needed something more. His departure left me orphaned and unmoored. An anchor of a lifetime, gone in a flash. I reluctantly returned to morning minyan because I didn't know where else to go.

I had no confidence in my choice. My father would have made a very different one. I never saw him wear a tallit, put on tefillin, read Torah, say Kaddish, or light a yahrzeit candle. I don't remember Hebrew coming from his lips. He did not have a bar mitzvah. He would join our family on the High Holidays at the reform temple of my youth only to please my mother. He lost eight family members in the Shoah, a fate he and his parents narrowly escaped. There was no place for God in his world. And here I was, contemplating saying Kaddish for him every day for eleven months. Reciting a doxology that says nothing about the dead but lists and praises God's attributes?

Yit-ga-dal ve'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba ...
Exalted and hallowed be God's greatness...

Perhaps I would make him laugh. I'd like to think so. Just as likely, he'd be shaking his head, not disapprovingly, but without understanding either.

Then I did something I had never been willing to do: I cleared my early morning patient calendar to physically be at shul, and set my alarm still earlier to speed walk beforehand. An amalgam of two daily rituals: one intimately familiar, the other completely foreign, but both linked to my father.

Still questioning my minyan decision, I met with Rabbi Lauren three weeks later. Most minyan goers were welcoming enough, I told her, and the minyan's talisman went out of his way to introduce and include newcomers. But everyone else seemed to know what they were doing, and I did not. I was no more familiar with the daily liturgy, its structure, or its Hebrew than I had been five years before. There were no recognizable melodies to guide me. The service's quick pace furthered my feelings of incompetence. And in my mourning state, I had little capacity for intellectual pursuits or study.

Nor did the English translations speak to me, and some deeply disturbed me. On the rare occasions that prayers or psalms were read in English, I hesitated to recite them aloud, too. I had no interest in Torah honors, wearing a tallit, or donning tefillin. I did not know my father's full Hebrew name to announce before saying Kaddish, and I still stumbled over some of its Aramaic phrases. I wasn't even sure I believed in God, or at least the God described in those translated words. What was I doing there?

Rabbi Lauren affectionately observed that minyan "didn't seem to be hurting me," and encouraged me to continue going, assuring me that I would figure out if my regular attendance was helpful or not.

I began to focus on what was familiar: the Sh'ma, the Torah trope, the prayers before and after the Torah reading, the beginning and end of the Amidah, Aleinu, Kaddish. The letters of those Hebrew words fell like soft rain on my mourning soul, gentle and tender. I paid particular attention to the silences, as those were the moments I felt closest to my father. Even my grieving mind became familiar with the structure of the service, so that I could find my way into the siddur when I arrived late, as I often did. I came to appreciate the strong, clear voices davening around me who knew the liturgy well. I sometimes reveled in their recitations rather than awkwardly mouthing the unfamiliar Hebrew words or trying to make sense of the English translations. By four months, I was willing to dress the Torah; at six, I accepted my first Aliyah.

Morning minyan gave me a fresh awareness of the synagogue as a place, a space, a sanctuary, a home. I grew to love its hum, only audible when its cavernous rooms were empty of congregants. A peace, a calm, a quiet often obscured by Shabbat. How important were the greetings from those who tended to that space in the early hours of the day: the janitorial staff who mopped the floors, the security guards who kept us safe, the receptionist at the front desk on Sunday mornings. Their smiles were moments of promise, especially in the early weeks of mourning when my sorrow was always with me.

I gained a new understanding of the location of the Beit



Midrash in the very center of the synagogue. It really was the hub of synagogue life, a place for prayer, learning, and study. For nearly a year, it held my mourning and my grief. That need for a designated space to mourn might have resonated with my father. In spite of his rejection of formal Jewish practice, he struggled to find a suitable place to honor the memory of his slaughtered kin. He chose a plaque in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum rather than in a shul, but understood that everyone needed a home. Perhaps that experience would have given him greater acceptance of my choice.

As the months passed, I appreciated the increasing number of women who came to minyan each morning, some fellow mourners, some not. A sisterhood of sorts that expanded and contracted, partly by the happenstance of loss, partly by commitment and competing obligations. I loved when they led services and read Torah. I knew them all by name, and felt less out of place on the days more women were present. That said, I appreciated the men who made minyan happen, not only in terms of the numbers needed to make a minyan, but also in recognition that many of them were the regulars who led us in prayer. Some ignored me, some offered a brief nod. One was particularly kind: "I'm glad you're here," he said.

I saw that other things happened at minyan besides mourning: baby namings, honoring of Bar and Bat Mitzvah families, birthday celebrations, a round of spirits in memory of a loved one, teaching bites from the clergy. All reminders that life goes on.

And nothing highlighted the cycle of life more acutely than the oft-heard background chatter of two pre-school sisters, playing in the far corner of the Beit Midrash as their mother said Kaddish for her mother. Memories of my son and daughter as young children would flood my mind. My father loved traveling with them, from grade school until well into adulthood. My heart ached that these little girls would never know their grandmother as my children had known my father, that their mother would not have her mother in her life for the many years I had my father in mine. My good fortune was not lost on me, especially as the little girls' high-pitched chorus summoned the joys of my similarly-aged granddaughter. I was especially grateful that my father tasted that joy, bouncing his first great-grandchild on his knees weeks before he died.

For me, eating breakfast following the daily service was not a big draw. I had to rush off to work most mornings immediately after the service concluded anyway. But I always appreciated the days I could linger. Where else could we freely talk about grieving, difficult moments, crazy dreams about those we were mourning, cleaning out living spaces, or unveilings? Some of those conversations gave rise to remarkable acts of kindness, generosity, and friendship.

An artist offered to untangle the strings of an exquisitely

carved wooden marionette, an elderly East European man of humble means, that my father and I discovered during our travels to Prague. Formerly relegated to a cabinet because he could not properly be hung, the old man dangles on my coat closet door, a poignant reminder of my father that greets me every morning as I dash out to minyan.

A second artist incorporated a cardinal's nest, carefully salvaged from our backyard during COVID, into the larger nest of sticks she created in our synagogue lobby. Months later, we would discover a shared Holocaust history that gave even deeper meaning to my daily Kaddish ritual. My father's first cousin, Vera, was killed in Auschwitz at the age of five or six. Her name became my middle name, a haunted legacy I have carried from birth. Saying Kaddish for my father also allowed me to mourn Vera in the intimate company of other mourners, to free myself of the responsibility to live for both of us. Separating those losses ultimately eased my mourning of my father as well.

A third congregant volunteered to help me create a tallit of my own, as she had lovingly done for her sister; they often came to minyan together to say Kaddish for their mother, their affection for each other contagious. Another minyan regular, also mourning his father, generously translated several German poems of my maternal great uncle, a well-published, post-modern gay Austrian poet who perished in the Shoah. His curiosity about my great uncle's life and work deeply touched me, as I had previously failed to interest several German scholars in his poetic works.

Eleven months later, the words of the mourner's Kaddish roll off my tongue. Indeed, with a gentle prompt, I led the final Kaddish the same day I delivered these remarks. I still don't know the entire Shacharit liturgy, though I believe I have the capacity to learn it if I want to. When lost in my own thoughts, I do not always remember to stand, bow, or sit. I am even more confused about how I feel about God. Yet, showing up each morning in this space has allowed me to mourn my father one day at a time, in a way I never imagined possible. He is both gone, and with me, and I have honored his name.

Tomorrow, I will wake up, welcome the new day, don my sneakers, do my morning walk. And I will not come to minyan; I will likely not come this week. I need a concrete marker to end the eleven months of saying Kaddish for my father. Instead, my husband and I will welcome our two-and-three-quarter-year-old granddaughter, our daughter, and her wife. They arrive tonight to begin a new life in DC, and will move into the apartment formerly occupied by my father. He would be so pleased.

Thank you all so very much.



ADAS ISRAEL
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A SACRED BLEND OF
TRADITION &
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