

Hashofar

Adas Yoshuron Synagogue
50 Willow Street • P.O. Box 1250 • Rockland, Maine 04841
207-594-4523 • info@adasyoshuron.org
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Rabbi Solochek Is Leaving Adas Yoshuron

Message from Board President, Stuart Finkelstein

Let me begin by saying that this is a most difficult message to share with our congregation and friends of Adas Yoshuron. For the past two and a half years, Adas Yoshuron has served as a home for Rabbi Lily Solochek and their wife, Lanni. We have been privileged to form close relationships with them. We have celebrated together at births, baby namings, and b'nai mitzvah. We have grieved together and sought comfort in the face of illness and loss. We have learned Torah and explored the many facets of Jewish life. We have engaged together in the work of *tikkun olam* and making our world a better place, and we have shared the joy and sweetness of Shabbat and holidays.

We are deeply saddened by Rabbi Solochek's departure. They have accompanied us through many important milestones, and we sorrowfully acknowledge this loss. We reflect with pride as we remember Rabbi Solochek's leadership. They expanded the range of services offered on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, creating multiple ways to celebrate Shabbat; increased our commitment to activism and social justice, especially through efforts to address food insecurity, racial equity, and LGBTQ+ rights; built rich, inspiring adult education classes for congregants seeking to learn and discover together; and creatively led us in prayer, religious services, and cultural programs in the midst of a pandemic.

I am confident that all we have shared together has strengthened our congregational values, culture, and spirit. Our experience with Rabbi Solochek will leave our precious community in a strong position to move forward under the leadership of a new rabbi.

Although we face an uncertain time, it can also be a productive one as we define the qualities that a new rabbi can bring to our community. During the months ahead, we will think, together, about our community's future and what we are looking for in a rabbi. As a community, we [must] work together, communicate sincerely, and keep an open mind to assure that our members' needs, thoughts, and reflections are addressed throughout the process. *(Continued on page 3)*



Left: Stuart Finkelstein; Adas Yoshuron custodian, Bruce Devarney; Ed Miller; Rockland Main Street Executive Director Dave Gogel; and David Theriault (not shown) installed the Community Menorah in Harbor Park in preparation for our Chanukah party on Saturday, December 4, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. The menorah, purchased through generous donations to a GoFundMe campaign, will be lit throughout the eight nights of Chanukah in downtown Rockland.

Right: Lighting the new menorah for the first night of Chanukah.





Save the Date



Shabbat services in December will take place at Adas Yoshuron Synagogue, with the option to join via Zoom. See individual event information for availability of in-person or Zoom attendance for all other activities. Please note masks are required to attend indoor services and events. Please see page 3 for new information from our COVID Response Team.

Saturday, December 4, 4:30 p.m. — Chanukah Party in Rockland

Friday, December 10, 6 p.m. — Shabbat Services, led by Meyer Drapkin

Sunday, December 12, 10 a.m. — Books & Bagels

Friday, December 17, 6 p.m. — Shabbat Services, led by Michael Kosowsky

Saturday, December 18, 10 a.m. — Shabbat Services, led by Cliff Dacso and Zac Mosheyev

Monday, December 20, 6 p.m. — Board Meeting

Saturday, December 25 — Christmas Community Dinner at St. Peter's, volunteers needed

Chanukah Party

Saturday, December 4, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate Chanukah with live music, dancing, crafts, and sweet treats!

The party will be outdoors at Mildred B. Merrill Park in Rockland, weather permitting.



Construction Has Begun!

Our long-awaited renovations are underway. Our synagogue will be safer and more accessible.



Books & Bagels

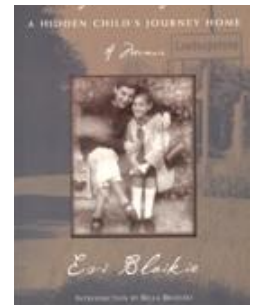
Books & Bagels will meet on

Sunday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m. Our topic will be the hidden children of Hungary.

We will be joined for the discussion by Evi Blaikie, author of *Magda's Daughter*, coeditor of *Remember Us*, and participant in the film

Remember Us. To prepare, please read one of the books and/or watch the film, which

you can find at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByLs04eEOKU2SWg4QUVnbFVWZDA/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0-Cucyno2Hdz51yD8Psbrnig>



Both books are available on Amazon. If you live in the Camden area, and would like to borrow either one, please contact me (judykstein@gmail.com). We also can loan a DVD of the film. Evi is Magda's daughter.

She was born to Hungarian immigrants in France and hidden in Hungary during WWII. She is an amazing woman and we are delighted to have her with us.

For more information, contact Judy Stein judykstein@gmail.com.

Shabbat Services in December

Shabbat services will take place at Adas Yoshuron Synagogue, with an option to join via Zoom. Please note: masks are required to attend in-person services.

Friday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.



Rabbi (Continued from page 1)

Perhaps, like mine, your first reaction was to move quickly to seek and hire new rabbinic leadership for the synagogue. Rabbi Solochek demonstrated the extraordinary value that dedicated spiritual and community leadership provides for our congregation. This moment in our history, however, presents us with an opportunity to take a deep breath, review our processes, learn from past experiences, and institute appropriate procedures that will guide us in the enormous task of selecting a new rabbi. We must have a process that builds trust, creates confidence, and brings us closer as a community through working and engaging with one another. The dedication and commitment of our community has made — and will continue to make — Adas Yoshuron such a special place.

Soup Kitchen

Thanks go out to David Long, Carol Jacobsen, and Zac Mosheyev, for cooking the mouthwatering meat lasagna, garlic bread, and fresh salad Adas Yoshuron served on November 7. Thanks, also, to our bakers, Elinor Klivans and Emily Vigneron, for their delicious confections. We cooked 24 meals at St. Peter's, and gave out 16 there and delivered eight others.

Please note that our usual first Sunday of the month Soup Kitchen in December will be covered by a different Loaves and Fishes group.

Christmas Community Dinner: Help Needed

Adas Yoshuron will be sponsoring our annual Christmas Day Community Dinner with the help of Primo. I'm in the process of planning for this event, but I know that we'll need volunteer bakers to bake and individually wrap their confections to go with the turkey dinner that Primo will cook and package for us. I'd love to have someone volunteer to organize the bakers! Please contact me if you'd like to organize bakers, bake, and/or help on Christmas Day. lindagarson.smith@gmail.com



Happy Chanukah!

COVID Response Team Update

The COVID Response Team met on November 8, 2021, and updated the Adas Yoshuron COVID guidelines as follows:

Shabbat services will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Masks will be required in person. We will be keeping the fans on and some of the windows will be partially open, so please dress warmly. We will not be sharing food or using the downstairs hall for right now, but will have challah available in the foyer as people are leaving.

Indoor Synagogue Use/Events

Masks are required indoors, unless noted otherwise. For small meetings, masks may be removed if all members are vaccinated AND all are in agreement.

Hebrew School & Pre Hebrew School

Hebrew School: Meeting inside will be in the sanctuary, not in the community room downstairs. If inside, masks are required.

Pre Hebrew School: Meeting inside will be in the sanctuary, not in the community room downstairs. Masks are required for children old enough to wear them.

Books & Bagels

Everyone attending in person is required to be vaccinated since eating is a primary part of the event. The COVID team will likely reconvene in December.

For any questions, contact Nancy Scovern nscovern@gwi.net

Hineni — Here for Each Other

The Hineni Committee is here to support people in the Adas Yoshuron community. The group wishes to deepen our sense of community, and to expand how we help and support each other.

Please contact Hineni chair, Nancy Scovern, if you'd like to be of service, or reach out if there's something you need help with.

Contact Nancy Scovern at nscovern@gwi.net or call 207-930-0249 (cell).

Starting *Daf Yomi* in the Time of Coronavirus

When I began the practice of reading a page of Talmud a day back in February 2020, I had only a vague, idealistic idea of what would be involved. The world was pre-pandemic, pre-stay-at-home orders, pre-face masks and social distancing, pre-testing, vaccinations, and Delta variant. More than 750,000 people in the United States had not yet died from COVID-19. I didn't know how quickly *Daf Yomi* — literally Page-A-Day — would become both a challenge and an anchor of stability in a world that seemed to be swinging on its axis.

I started *Daf Yomi* about three weeks after the end of the last *Daf Yomi* cycle. Studying one page of Talmud per day requires 2,737 days — seven years and five months — to complete the entire cycle. The current *Daf Yomi* cycle began January 5, 2020, and the next cycle will begin June 8, 2027. I began *Daf Yomi* at the age of 69. If I live long enough and complete this entire cycle — God willing — I will be 77 years old.

I'm not really sure why I decided to begin *Daf Yomi*. I'm not even sure I did "decide." It was an opportune time since the seven-and-a-half-year cycle had just begun again. Adas Yoshuron had just purchased a complete set of Talmud — the *Koren Bavli* (Babylonian Talmud) — for our library. The new bound Talmud volumes came with an electronic version accessible online. One day in early February I thought I would see what it was like to "do *Daf Yomi*." I powered my laptop, clicked on the first tractate, *Berachot* (Blessings); put in my ear buds; and listened to *Hadran* — *Daf Yomi for Women's* podcast (each day's recording is about 35 to 45 minutes in length — <https://hadran.org.il>). Our teacher, Rabbanit Michelle Farber, reads the *daf*/page aloud, providing translation and explanation in English. For the first several weeks, with some effort, I managed to find time every day to follow along. Then the Coronavirus arrived with "stay-at-home" orders. Stuck at home, I asked myself, "why not keep going?" I did, and today I am surprised to find myself almost two years and nine completed tractates later still going strong in the *Daf*.

What is the Talmud, anyway? Divided into 37 volumes dealing with different aspects of Jewish law/life — from Jewish holidays to business transactions, from marriage to logistics of offering sacrifices in the Temple. It is comprised of the oldest portion — the *Mishna* — and commentaries and explanations in chronologically later sections known as the *Gemara*,

together with other commentaries and explanations of specific rabbis, and collections of rabbis' comments from still later periods. Our teacher, Rabbanit Farber, leads us each day through each page of Talmud. A *daf*/page might begin with a section of the *Mishna*, followed by related *Gemara*. Rabbanit Farber may also bring views and comments from later sages whose commentaries are printed on that page of the Talmud. But *Daf Yomi* is a thirty-thousand-foot-high perspective from which we glance down briefly into the

Talmud. We don't have time — *even over seven-and-one-half years* — to dig into many details relating to any given *daf*/page.

What Talmud is not is *halakha* — Jewish law — in its currently applied modern form. It does not tell us what rabbinic Judaism today would say is permitted or not permitted by Jewish law. But Talmud *IS* Jewish history, Biblical commentary, Jewish anthropology, culture and ethics, ancient science, myth and story, and homiletic interpretation. The pages of the Talmud depict — often dramatically — day-to-day life as Jews were living when the *Mishna* and *Gemara* were compiled centuries ago. What were Jewish towns like? What were houses made out of? How did Jews make a living? What was agriculture like? What did people eat? How did they cook? What were bathrooms and bathhouses like? What did Jews wear? How did the poor relate to the wealthy? How did students relate to their rabbis, and rabbis to one another? How did women and men relate? What were Jewish children's lives like? How did Jews relate to non-Jews? Sometimes the Talmud is just plain laugh-out-loud funny.

Learning *Daf Yomi* connects me to Jews around the world today and across time to Jewish history. It challenges my brain, tickles my funny bone, and moves me. Today, I want to invite *you* to jump into the *Daf Yomi's* sea with me. You don't have to wait until 2027! It is fine to start *Daf Yomi* any day. It is equally fine to try it out for any length of time, to start and stop and start again, as you feel inclined. The Talmud is a priceless treasure that belongs to *all Jews everywhere and in every age*. I now know that includes me, even at this late stage of my life, for which I am so grateful. And the Talmud is yours, too! How about it? Will you join us and learn a *daf*/page of Talmud with us today?

~Laurence Coe



November Donations

Thank you to the following people for their recent donations:

In support of the synagogue

The estate of Edith Dondis
Marianne and Bennett Falk
Carol Sloane

In loving memory

Brenda and John Batty, in memory of Irma Goldsmith
Naomi Cohen, in memory of her mother, Marilyn Picker
David Schwartz, in memory of Sol and Florence Zwecker Schwartz
Mollie, Eric, Carly, and AJ Small, in memory of Edith and Ernest Dondis
Bertha Taplitsky, in memory of Ida Francis Dondis
Gail Wartell, for the yahrzeit of her mother, Rosalyn Schneider

In memory of Charlotte Gordon

Lynne Brown
Mark and Barb Demming Lurie
Elinor Klivans
Lawrence and Barbara Orans

Thank You! Todah Rabah!

To: **Linda Garson Smith** for coordinating the November Soup Kitchen

November Board Meetings

The Board met twice in November 2021. Here are some highlights:

November 8 special Board meeting: The Board met to address areas that needed coverage and attention during Rabbi Solochek's six-week medical leave (November 15 to December 31). With Rabbi Solochek's help and input, we discussed and planned Shabbat services, Chanukah programming, and how to handle pastoral emergencies, among other things.

November 15: The Board met in Executive session to discuss Rabbi Solochek's resignation and how to proceed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday December 20, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

~Nancy Scovern, Board Secretary

Membership Renewals

Thank you to the following people for renewing their annual membership with Adas Yoshuron. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office.

Gloria Stein
Neil Smith
Steven Koltai

Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Rachel Adler and Autumn Smith, who got engaged on October 9, 2021, on top of Haystack Mountain in Liberty, ME. They are planning an October wedding next year, officiated by Rachel's brother, Rabbi Jake Adler.

Refu'ah Shleimah

We send our prayers for a complete healing to

Jimmy Brickel
Bonnie Bowerman
Datya bat Ariella
Hedberg family
David Long
Bob Meggison
John Parkman



James Rapaport
Avi ben Sarah
Elizabeth Schiller
Steven Seidman
Nan Smith
Neil Smith
Daniel Tesler

If you are aware of someone in the Adas Yoshuron community who is in need of healing prayers, please contact the office.

Yahrzeits for November 2021; 27 Kislev-27 Tevet 5782

Edith Dondis (December 21, 2020; 6 Tevet)
Abraham Koritzky: 10 Tevet (December 14)
Arthur Stern: 10 Tevet (December 14)
Martin Cohen: 12 Tevet (December 16)
Joan Meil: 13 Tevet (December 17)
Rosalind Dubin: 14 Tevet (December 18)
Jennifer Davis: 16 Tevet (December 20)
Ada Gould: 16 Tevet (December 20)
Edith Fishman: 17 Tevet (December 21)
Morris Eli Oransky: 17 Tevet (December 21)
Irving Small: 17 Tevet (December 21)
Rhoda Boughton: 18 Tevet (December 22)
Anna L. Gordon: 18 Tevet (December 22)
Simon Briggs: 19 Tevet (December 23)
Isadore E. Cohen: 19 Tevet (December 23)
Robert S. Orans: 19 Tevet (December 23)
Rose Madow: 20 Tevet (December 24)
M. Gerald Wind: 21 Tevet (December 25)
Yetta Cohen: 22 Tevet (December 26)
Walter L. Wolf: 22 Tevet (December 26)
Mollie Kantor: 23 Tevet (December 27)
Dorothy Gordon: 24 Tevet (December 28)

We also mourn the loss of the following people who died within this past year:

Benson Saler (February 25, 2021; 13 Adar)
Harris Gordon Miller (March 24, 2021; 11 Nisan)
Caryl Kolkin (April 3, 2021; 21 Nisan)
Ernest Dondis (April 17, 2021; 5 Iyar)
Marilyn Brown (April 29, 2021; 17 Iyar)
Elazar Yitzchak Koltai (April 30, 2021; 18 Iyar)
Miriam Storch (June 27, 2021)
Sharon Timmer (July 13, 2021; 5 Av)
Janet Sokoloff (July 16, 2021; 8 Av)
Eric Jacobsen (July 20, 2021; 12 Av)
Irma Goldsmith (September 18, 2021; 12 Tishrei)
Charlotte Gordon (September 22, 2021; 17 Tishrei)



Hebrew School

Pre Hebrew School Update

On a beautiful Sunday morning in early November, the Adas Yoshuron Pre Hebrew School gathered outside the shul for a morning of fun, games, and learning. We read the stories of Abraham and Joseph, and reviewed the colors in Hebrew. We sang the song *Father Abraham* and the prayer *Hinei Mah Tov* while we played games with the parachute. We will gather again on Sunday, December 5, for a special morning of Chanukah crafts and games.

Hebrew School

In the month of November, the Adas Yoshuron Hebrew School continued working on the *Amida* prayer and learned the *Modeh Ani*. The students also practiced the Chanukah blessings.

Together, we read a Thanksgiving story about a newly emigrated Jewish family celebrating their first Thanksgiving in America. We worked on our own family trees, and discussed things we are thankful for. We learned the term *rachamim* (compassion).

After learning that Issac lost his sight in his old age and struggled to tell his sons apart, we explored what it is like to use our other senses, like hearing and feeling, to recognize people and objects. The students also learned about the life of Jacob and his famous ladder dream, and explored their own dreams and what they might mean. The class discussed how Jacob wrestled with God, and explored their own relationships with God.

~Morah Elizabeth Siegel



Pre Hebrew School class enjoys a story on a lovely fall day.

Around the State

Statewide Chanukah Celebration

Join the statewide community on Saturday, December 4, at 5:30 p.m. for a festive Chanukah celebration hosted by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life! True, we still can't gather in a big crowd, eat latkes, light the menorah, and dance hand in hand. But that doesn't mean we can't do those things at home, together! If we've learned anything this year, it's how to celebrate as a community, from near and far, online!

There will be havdalah and menorah lighting (have yours on hand!). There will be an original play — *Wager in the Bathhouse* — by Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer, performed by our not-ready-for-prime-time rabbis! To top it all off, there will be music by Rabbi Sruli! And we will be together—from all four corners of our state—to celebrate this joyous holiday.

[Register here](#) for the Zoom link.

For more information: liz.snider@colby.edu

Chanukah Happenings 2021

The JCA (The Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine) has compiled a list of Chanukah celebrations and activities for southern Maine. Go to <https://www.mainejewish.org/hanukkah-happenings-2021/>.



Marking Milestones

Loved ones can be memorialized with a bronze yearzeit plaque in the sanctuary. *Simcha*s can be marked with a plaque on the Tree of Life. Bookplates can be inscribed in honor of people and events. For more information please contact the office and we'll help you figure out the best way to mark the milestones.

Chanukah Film Festival

Presented by Menemsha Films in partnership with MJFF (Maine Jewish Film Festival) and the JCA (Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine)

November 28 - December 5, 2021

1 Ticket | 8 Nights | 11 Films

Celebrate the Chanukah season with eight nights of exclusive, award-winning new films, available to view from the comfort of home via your TV, computer, or mobile devices.

Tickets: \$36 with promo code “MAINE”

Your ticket purchase provides limited-time access to this series of 11 films, plus exclusive filmmaker discussions and more, with new content added each night of Chanukah.

Note that films may be viewed until December 11.

Watch the trailer: <https://www.menemshafilms.com/hanukkahff2021>

For more information: <https://www.menemshafilms.com/hanukkah-film-fest-faq>



Menorah Lighting in Belfast. Sponsored by Our Town Belfast, the menorah has been lit for Chanukah in Post Office Square for the last six years. A group gathered for the first night to celebrate with songs and a little dancing. Left: Linda Garson Smith recites the candle blessing.



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Gail Wartell

Hebrew School

Elizabeth Siegel

Office Hours

The office will be closed to the public until further notice, but calls and emails will be answered promptly.

Contact us! To reach the Board or President:

president@adasyoshuron.org

for the Rabbi: rabbi@adasyoshuron.org

for the office: info@adasyoshuron.org

for Hashofar: hashofar@adasyoshuron.org

for Hebrew School: lizziesiegel@icloud.com

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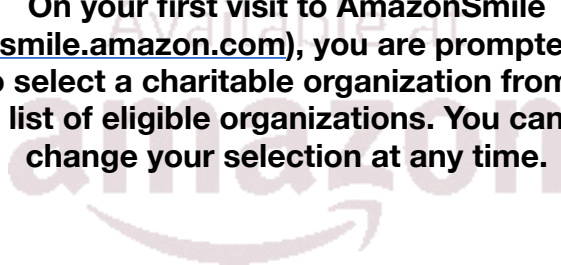
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Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____. My contribution is in recognition of the following:

Name of Honoree/Occasion _____

Name of Contributor _____

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Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

December 2021 • Kislev/Tevet 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Chanukah	2 Hebrew School 4 p.m. Chanukah	3 Chanukah	4 Chanukah Party in Rockland 4:30 p.m. Chanukah
5 Pre Hebrew School 10 a.m. Chanukah-last candle lighting	6 Chanukah	7	8	9 Hebrew School 4 p.m.	10 Shabbat Services led by Myer Drapkin 6 p.m.	11
12 Books & Bagels 10 a.m.	13	14	15	16 Hebrew School 4 p.m.	17 Shabbat Services led by Michael Kosowsky 6 p.m.	18 Shabbat Services led by Cliff Dacso and Zac Mosheyev 10 a.m.
19	20 Board Meeting 6 p.m.	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Community Dinner at St. Peter's Episcopal Church
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Please see information on individual services/events/classes about online and in-person availability. Contact the office if you would like more information on using Zoom.

Stay updated! Like us on [Facebook](#).



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First Class Mail



*We welcome your letters, comments, and
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