



April 20, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Bet Mishpachah:

With great pride and joy, this summer our congregational family will publish an updated hard-cover edition of our own unique machzor: *Chadeish Yamèinu*, Renew our Days. Bet Mishpachah began working on the first edition of our LGBTQ-affirming machzor in 1993. Each year from 1994 through 1998, an additional booklet was introduced for one of the High Holy Day (HHD) services. We are very pleased that all HHD services will now be printed in a single hard-cover book that provides complete services for *Rosh ha-Shana* and *Yom Kippur*, as well as *Yizkor* and *S'lichot*.

This hard-cover edition of our innovative, egalitarian, and LGBTQ-affirming prayerbook for the High Holy Days has been lovingly prepared and edited by our Liturgy Committee under the outstanding long-time leadership of congregant Scott Reiter.

*Chadeish Yamèinu* offers a variety of beautiful prayers and meditations by contemporary liturgists, including several very talented members of our congregational family. These readings span a wide range of Jewish and gender expressions in all the colors of rainbow pride: from traditional to renewal; from cisgender to transgender and non-binary. Many of the Liturgy Committee's English translations of the traditional Hebrew prayers resulted from deeply searching the original text and finding new meanings in it.

As with the first edition, the English translations in the second edition are de-genderized with respect to G-d, and both Hebrew and English are co-genderized with respect to people, by avoiding exclusively male expressions and by adding references to women, such as all six Matriarchs and the Prophet Miriam. Some Hebrew prayers are in the feminine, such as an alternate blessing for lighting candles, and the *B'rucha She-Amra* prayer in the morning service. In the new edition, all Hebrew is transliterated.

### **Publication and Dedication**

To publish our beautiful new hard-cover *machzor*, we are seeking the support of our members, friends and the wider Jewish and LGBTQ communities. The new *machzor* will be dedicated at High Holy Day services in September.

### **Benefactors**

To fund the cost of printing the *machzor* and to support other Bet Mishpachah programs, we are seeking publication benefactors. As a Benefactor, your minimum support of \$500 will be recognized with your name listed, if desired, as an individual, couple or organization on a specially designated

page printed in the front of the *machzor*. **Due to the printing lead-time, the final deadline for including your name in the *machzor* as a Benefactor is May 31.**

**Copy of the *Machzor***

All Benefactors who contribute \$500 will receive one copy of the *machzor* plus a complementary Book Plate which will be personalized for a congregational *machzor*. Those who contribute at the \$1,000 level will receive two copies of the *machzor* and two Book Plates for congregational *machzorim*. For each additional \$500 above \$1,000, you will receive an additional *machzor* and Book Plate.

Donations may be made online via PayPal Giving or by check. In either case, donors will need to complete the donation form and mail or email the form to our treasurer.

1. To donate online, go to <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1754767> to make your donation. Then complete and send the donation form to our treasurer at the address below or you can scan and email it as a PDF to [treasurer@betmish.org](mailto:treasurer@betmish.org).
2. To donate by mail, complete the donation form and mail it with your check made payable to Bet Mishpachah to:

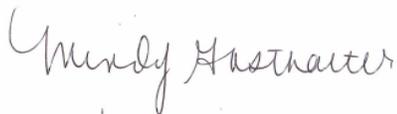
Bet Mishpachah  
PO Box 1410  
Washington, DC 20013

**Again, the final deadline for receiving your donation to have your name printed on the Benefactor page in the *machzor* is May 31.**

However you decide to celebrate and support the publication of our beautiful and unique new *machzor*, we welcome and appreciate your generous donations to our loving congregational family at Bet Mishpachah.

We hope to see you, your family and friends at our services and at our many social, cultural and educational programs throughout the year.

*Shalom u-V'racha* / Peace and blessings,



Mindy Gasthalter  
President