

Mishpachah Matters

The Newsletter of Bet Mishpachah, Founded in 1975
by Members of the Washington, DC, Gay Community

Rabbi's Column: Value for the Year Rabbi Toby Manewith

A group of congregants sat in a cramped classroom on a Sunday morning, having gathered to determine the focus of all of the congregation's activities over the coming year. It wasn't a calendaring or budget meeting, but the annual Values Brunch. We gathered to consider three possibilities: peace, generosity, and recognizing good. Familiar as you must be with the phrase, "Two Jews, three opinions," it should come as no surprise that the value chosen in the end wasn't one of these three.

Taking a cue from last year's Combined Federal Campaign, the theme of which was "Compassion of Individuals. Power of Community," those in attendance chose to concentrate this year's spiritual, educational and social action efforts around the idea of the "power of compassion."

So how did we reach that given our starting points? It's not hard to imagine, given the Talmudic tradition of argumentation and our people's history of wandering.

Through our discussions, it became clear that peace, though a noble goal, didn't feel right to the majority of those assembled. To many, the idea seemed somewhat daunting — as Washingtonians who are all too familiar with negotiations that have broken down long before likely participants sat down around a table of disputed shape, the task seemed too large. Even for those willing to entertain peace as a goal on a more particularistic level, some participants in the conversation thought that individual definitions of peace differ too greatly for one version of the value to be accepted by all.

Though board members present were strong proponents of a value that brought more revenue to the synagogue, the conversation surrounding generosity quickly turned away from finances and toward generosity of spirit. The following text, written by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, found in his Hasidic Tales, was a catalyst for the shift in focus: "Acts of generosity are essential to the spiritual life, reflecting as they do an awareness of the interconnectedness of all beings. Judaism sets a minimum standard for giving: ten percent of your earnings. But the Hasid, the compassionate disciple of God, goes beyond the letter of the law."

(Continued on page 4)

House of Ruth Presentation Friday, March 2nd, 2012

On Friday, March 2nd, Carolyn Stevens from the House of Ruth will speak at Friday evening service. House of Ruth is this year's recipient of funds donated to the Queen Esther Fund. From now through our Purim service, pledges and donations for the Queen Esther fund will be gladly accepted on behalf of House of Ruth.

Founded in 1976, House of Ruth helps women, children and families in greatest need and with very limited resources build safe, stable lives and achieve their highest potential. At House of Ruth, women, children and families heal from lifetimes of traumatic abuse. You can visit their website, <http://www.houseofruth.org>.

Washington DC's Egalitarian Synagogue Embracing a Diversity of Sexual and Gender Identities

Table of Contents:

Page 3

Women of Valor and Much, Much More: Spring Class Begins March 5th, 2012

"Ladies and Gentlemen, and Children of All Ages!" Purim Service March 7th, 2012
Good Deeds Day is March 25th, 2012
Congregational Service Awards and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Friday, March 16th, 2012

Page 4:

This Month in Jewish History
Community News?

Page 5:

Calendar

Page 6:

Thanks to Our February *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Sponsors
Thank You to Our February Service Leaders
Member Anniversaries
Member Birthdays
Mazel Tov!

Page 7:

Calling on Volunteers to Bring Passover HOPE to Needy Jewish Families

Mark Klempner, Holocaust Rescuer Researcher, to Speak on April 20

Tu b'Sh'vat seder photo

Page 8:

Installation Remarks

Page 9:

Congregational Life Cycle Events Sought
Welcome to Our Newest Members
Welcome Back to Our Returning Members
Newsletter Editor Wanted
Help Our Administrator
Help Us to Help You
Communications Maven Wanted

Page 10-11:

Donations

Page 11:

Have You Read a Good Book Lately? Tell Us About It!

Page 12-14:

Member Yartzeits

Page 15:

Directory

Bet Mishpachah Communications

This newsletter is published monthly by Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, DC 20013. Articles must be received by the first Tuesday of the month prior to publication and should be sent to news-editor@betmish.org. The newsletter is sent to members, donors, and various organizations. For a three-month trial subscription, write to office@betmish.org. To advertise in our newsletter, contact advertise@betmish.org.

The congregation also publishes ATCBM, the electronic bulletin board of Bet Mishpachah, which contains late-breaking congregational news, as well as other Jewish and/or GLBT news that cannot be printed in this newsletter. We maintain a website at www.betmish.org with synagogue information and links to other Websites of interest.

Information contained in any of our publications may be reprinted without permission, but acknowledgment of the source is required. Direct any questions about our editorial or advertising policies to communications@betmish.org.

Shabbat Services

Bet Mishpachah holds Shabbat services every Friday at 8:00 pm and the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at 10:00 am at the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center (DCJCC), 16 and Q Streets, NW. Sign Language interpretation is available by request to sign@betmish.org with a minimum of two weeks notice. Any changes to this regular schedule will appear on our website (www.betmish.org), in the month's printed calendar, and/or in our electronic bulletin board ATCBM.

Enter the DCJCC building on Friday nights through the Q Street door. You will be buzzed in by our *shammash*. Shabbat worship will be in the DCJCC Kay Community Hall, on the right as you enter. A parking lot is available behind the DCJCC and may be entered from Q Street. It has approximately 20 spaces, including one designated for disabled drivers. Additionally, on Sunday through Thursday nights (but not on Fridays), the DCJCC operates a shuttle between its building and the Q Street entrance to the Dupont Circle Metrorail station.

Donations

To make a donation to our congregation, please send it to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, D.C. 20073-0520.

Mishpachah Matters Staff

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Electronic Newsletter Subscription

Do you want to receive Mishpachah Matters electronically and in living color, while saving the synagogue money? Send an email to pdfnews-subscribe@betmish.org. Include all the email addresses where you would like to receive the electronic newsletter and your mailing address, as you will no longer need the paper version.

Address, Phone, Email Changes

Send your name and old and new information to address-change@betmish.org.

ATCBM Subscription

If you wish to receive ATCBM, our electronic announcements about events at Bet Mishpachah and of interest to the Jewish GLBT community, please send an email to secretary@betmish.org with 'ATCBM' in the subject line and the email address where you would like to receive mail.

ATCBM Item Submission

Email your item in the body of an email (no attachments) for ATCBM Submissions to atcbm@betmish.org.

Bikur Cholim — We Care About You

We want to provide the support and comfort our members need during a difficult time. If you become ill or hospitalized, or suffer a loss, or know of a member who has, please let us know. You can email bikur-cholim@betmish.org.

Death Notices, Bereavement Services

If you are in need of bereavement services or to announce a death in your family, email bereavement@betmish.org.

To Schedule a Bet Mishpachah Event

Email the date, space needs, and number of expected attendees to calendar@betmish.org.

To Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush

Send an email to oneg@betmish.org, with the date you'd like to sponsor, and the occasion.

Bet Mishpachah's Affiliations

Bet Mishpachah is a member of: Network of Independent Jewish Communities and Havurot; Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington; World Congress of GLBT Jews: *Keshet Ga'avah*; Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington; and Celebration of the Spirit Coalition.

Women of Valor and Much, Much More: Spring Class Begins March 5th, 2012

Around Shabbat tables across the world, women listen as men—most often their spouses—recite the words of *Eshet Chayil*/A Woman of Valor. Meant to elevate and praise a woman for her work, it concentrates mainly on her efforts in support of her family.

Women throughout Jewish history have been commended for just this type of service, but a few in every generation—partnered and not—have gone beyond, and sometimes around, these roles and made a name for themselves by doing the unexpected. In this four week course, you'll learn about just such women from four different eras of Jewish history—including Yael, Bruriah, Licoricia of Winchester and Hannah Rochel Verbermacher. Class will be held on four consecutive Mondays in March (5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) at 7:30 at the JCC. (The name Licoricia alone should be enough to make you want to learn more!)

"Ladies and Gentlemen, and Children of All Ages!" Purim Service March 7th, 2012

With the political circus of an election year in full swing, it seems fitting to celebrate Purim with the fun and frolic of life under the big top. Ringmaster Toby Manewith will guide the fun, frolic and clowning around at Bet Mishpachah's Purim services, Wednesday, March 7th, at 7:00 pm in the Community Hall of the Washington DCJCC. We may not be swinging from the high trapeze or braving the high wire, but you can bring out your inner clown and come in costume.

Come celebrate the holiday with your Bet Mishpachah family. We will have noisemakers available, or you can bring your own *groggers* to blot out that evil name, five letters long and beginning with an H. Yes there will be *hamantashen*, and possibly some libations to help get you in the festive mood.

Good Deeds Day is March 25th, 2012

On Sunday, March 25, 2012 for the first time ever, the Greater Washington community will join Israel and countries from across the globe for an international day of good deeds. Established in Israel in 2007, Good Deeds Day celebrates the value and importance of giving back to the community we live in. Over the past five years, more than 140,000 volunteers have participated. The day will offer a variety of hands-on projects where volunteers can roll up their sleeves and make an impact. Bet Mishpachah plans to participate in this event by encouraging members to sign up for a project hosted by the DCJCC.

More information will follow in an @CBM.

Congregational Service Awards and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Friday, March 16th, 2012

The board of directors is proud to announce the recipients of the 2011 Congregational Service Awards that will be bestowed at a celebratory congregational dinner at the DCJCC on Friday, March 16th, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

The 2012 Dace Stone Volunteer of the Year Award will be bestowed upon Joel Wind, our archivist. You have undoubtedly read his congregational history notes in the monthly *Mishpachah Matters* over the past year or more. That may be the most visible of his work as archivist, but certainly does not capture the enormous time and effort he has expended over the years. Named after Dace Stone (ז"ל), the award recognizes a member of Bet Mishpachah who has made outstanding contributions to the congregation.

The Harvey Milk Chesed Award will be presented to David Fox, a long-time member of Bet Mishpachah. A past chair of our Social Justice/Social Action committee (in the 1990s), he is a tireless volunteer with a number of other GLBT community organizations, including the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Lambda Chapter, PFLAG, and Food and Friends. Named for the martyred GLBT activist and openly gay San Francisco City Council member who was assassinated in 1978, this award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the wider GLBT and Jewish communities of which Bet Mishpachah is a part.

For the first time, the Board of Directors would like to expand the evening's event by recognizing every member who has volunteered this past year. Please plan to attend as we celebrate the accomplishments of our award winners and ourselves!

Remember, the dinner will begin at 6:30. The cost for members is \$25 and non-members \$32. You can either pay by PayPal or pay by check. If you want to use PayPal, you can access the payment button from the main page of our website, www.betmish.org. If you want to pay by check, make your check payable to Bet Mishpachah and send to Shabbat Dinner c/o Mindy Gasthalter, 1725 17th Street, N.W., #208, Washington, DC 20009. Indicate the number of member and non-member meals and dietary restrictions such as vegetarian. Reservations are due by March 9 so please reserve now. If we do not have a minimum of 24 by March 9, the dinner will be cancelled. Questions can be directed to social-events@betmish.org.

This Month in Jewish History

By Rabbi Toby Manewith

For a number of years, members of the Social Action/Social Justice committee have passed the hat (or perhaps the crown) at Purim services on behalf of the Queen Esther Fund, raising money for local social service agencies. The tradition of giving *matanot l'evyonim* (gifts to the poor) emanates from the *megilla*, but holding fundraising events or collecting money on behalf of a specific cause—other than simply the community chest—is a relatively modern endeavor.

On March 17, 1862, The Purim Association of New York City held its inaugural “Fancy Dress Ball.” These events—parties at which potential revelers were denied admittance unless in costume—were held at Opera houses and concert venues, including Carnegie Hall, over the next thirty years raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for Jewish hospitals, schools, and child welfare organizations, as well as many non-sectarian organizations. In the late 19th century, as the tastes of leaders of the organization and its supporters changed, concerts replaced dance parties as the primary means of fundraising. The work of the Association ended, forty years after it held its first event, in 1902.

Community News? Let Us Know!

Did you get a promotion? Has a new niece or nephew arrived lately? Did you solve the entire Sunday *New York Times* crossword, in ink? Send any cause for a *mazel tov* to news-editor@betmish.org.

Rabbi's Column: Value of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

In turn, when it came time to study the Jewish value of *hakarat hatov*—recognizing the good—conversation evolved quickly from recognizing the good in the world around us to recognizing the good in ourselves and others. The assembled recognized how easy it is, especially in a group setting, to concentrate on the small annoyances rather than the majority of things that usually go smoothly. *Pirke Avot*, Ethics of our Ancestors, teaches, “Who is rich? S/he who is happy with what s/he has.” It was agreed that we might judge people similarly—thinking of positive qualities and actions first in the face of a negative interaction.

In the end, we came to compassion—the ability to empathize with others and the desire to act on these emotions. Having compassion with ourselves, perhaps we’ll feel less guilty about times when we’re not engaged in our community but instead celebrate when we are. Being compassionate toward others may allow us to be slower to judge or be more benevolent with our judgments. Showing compassion in the world may lead us to further involvement in social causes.

As we begin to think about how the power of compassion will shape our year ahead, we welcome your suggestions.

One final thought. If you’ve wondered why choosing a value is important, if it makes a difference, I offer the following story.

When a veteran member mentioned the value of “welcoming strangers” in the course of conversation, one of the newest members of our congregation added his voice to the conversation offering that he found the congregation and its members to be extremely welcoming; that he felt at home soon after walking through the doors. Many around the table shared a knowing smile and let the newcomer in on a secret: it was not always that way. Friendliness, openness, and a welcoming spirit are the hallmarks of our congregation, but this was not always the case. These values were chosen and cultivated and now they come naturally, indeed are synonymous with who we are.

Silber, Perlman, Sigman & Tilev, P.A.

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What's This?



Scan it with a QR code reader on your smartphone and find out!

Web: www.betmish.org

Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/>

BetMishpachah

Twitter: twitter.com/betmish

Email: office@betmish.org

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For the most up to date calendar information and community events, go to www.betmish.org/Calendar				1	2 Shabbat Services, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Toby Manewith	3
4 Board Retreat, 11:00 am, 200 N. Pickett Street	5 “Women of Valor”, 7:30, DC JCC	6	7 Erev Purim Service, 7:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Toby Manewith	8	9 Shabbat Services, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Jack Hillelsohn	10 Shabbat Morning Services, 10:00 am, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Toby Manewith, <i>Parshat Vaayakhiel-Pekudei</i>
11 Board Meeting, 11:00 am, DCJCC	12 “Women of Valor”, 7:30, DC JCC	13	14	15	16 Congregational Dinner, 6:30 pm, DCJCC Shabbat Services – Congregational Awards, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Toby	17
18	19 “Women of Valor”, 7:30, DC JCC	20	21	22	23 Shabbat Services, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Alex Carter	24 Shabbat Morning Services, 10:00 am, DCJCC, Service Leader: Scott Reiter, <i>Parshat Vayikra</i>
25 Good Deeds Day (see article p. 3)	26 “Women of Valor”, 7:30, DC JCC	27	28	29	30 Shabbat Services, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Allan Armus	




Thanks to Our February *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Sponsors

Please sponsor an *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush* luncheon this year. Contact Barbara Goldberg at oneg@betmish.org or call her at (703) 548-1086 to save your date.

Friday, February 3:
Yutta Brettschneider, in honor of Barbara's birthday

Friday, February 10:
Elyse Wander & Judy Retchin. No special occasion, just helping out

Saturday, February 11:
Keith Cohen in memory of his father, Maxwell Lewis Cohen

Friday, February 17:
Sue Silber, in memory of her father, and Dani & Avi's grandfather,
Gene Robert Silber

Friday, February 24:
Murray Woldman, observing the recent *yartzeits* of his mother, Lillian Woldman and grandfather, Alec Woldman, and in memory of his cousin Barbara Ungar who died last month

Saturday, February 25:
Elke Martin & Eva Freund, in celebration of their *chai* + 2 anniversary

Please consider sending a donation of *Chai* (\$18) or more to bring extended life to the Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund, established by a generous bequest from our beloved member Joel Woldman. Send donations to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, DC 20073-0520.

Thank You to Our February Service Leaders

Friday, February 3: Rabbi Toby Manewith

Friday, February 10: Larry Neff

Saturday, February 11: Rabbi Toby Manewith

Friday, February 17: Rabbi Toby Manewith

Friday, February 24: Allan Armus

Saturday, February 25: Jeff Burka (Marc Bernstein, Torah reading)

Member Birthdays

March 2: JonRobert Johnson

March 4: Michael Resnick

March 12: Thomas A. Sachs

March 12: Charles S. Stewart

March 14: Richard Gondelman

March 21: Robert Niemic

March 21: Sarah Schultz-Emmett

March 26: Jessica Erfer

March 28: P. Michael Greenwald

March 28: Batya Hyman

March 28: Dov Kliger

March 29: Jocelyn Bramble

March 31: Mark David Agrast

Member Anniversaries

March 1:
Eva Freund & Elke Martin

March 5:
Maxine Klane & Elaine Raksis

March 11:
Margy Kohn & Myrna Chasanow

March 20:
Jessica Erfer & Michael Gonen

March 23:
Stephanie Handel & Madeleine Remez

March 26:
Batya Hyman & Belinda Cross

Mazel Tov!

To Diane Liff, on her retirement from the federal government effective March 2, 2012.

To Aaron Hoffman, on his new home.

Calling on Volunteers to Bring Passover HOPE to Needy Jewish Families

For the sixth year in a row, Bet Mishpachah will participate in Project HOPE on Sunday, April 1st, 2012. Your participation and help will be appreciated with growing poverty and despair.

How to participate: Volunteer teams of two people, driver and rider, pick up Passover food items at a distribution point and deliver them to needy Jewish families in the Maryland suburbs and Northern Virginia. Many of the recipients are elderly Russian immigrants who don't speak much English. They are always delighted and thankful when you deliver their food and volunteers feel like they have done a real *mitzva*. One Bet Mishpachah volunteer remarked that her participation really got her in the spirit of Passover.

The two actions in Maryland and Virginia differ in several ways. In Maryland, the volunteers can choose ahead of time the zip code(s) in which they want to deliver or they can deliver to the four high-rise apartment buildings at the corner of Arcola and University Boulevard in Silver Spring. Volunteers pick up individual grocery bags of nonperishable Passover items at the Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville starting at 8:30 am for delivery to several addresses in the chosen delivery area. The names, addresses and driving directions are provided to the teams.

In Virginia, teams pick up a whole car trunk full of perishable and nonperishable food items to last a whole week at a location in Fairfax County starting at 11 am for delivery to a single address. The action in NOVA involves lifting heavy cartons of food and longer distances than the action in suburban Maryland. In both cases you can count on 2-3 hours for pick-up and delivery.

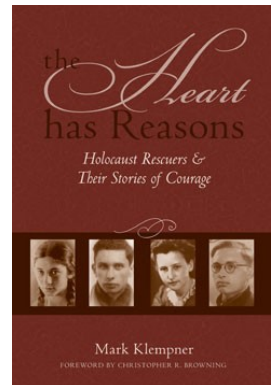
To sign up as a volunteer, visit the information table in the DCJCC Q Street Lobby during the month of March. Indicate on the sign-up sheet whether you want to be a driver or a rider and whether you want to deliver in Maryland or Northern Virginia. You can also sign up or get additional information by contacting Jutta Brettschneider at 240/328-8415 or yuttab@verizon.net, or Ken Troshinky at 202/701-7803 or kentroshinsky@gmail.com.

Mark Klempner, Holocaust Rescuer Researcher, to Speak on April 20



Please join us on Friday, April 20, for a very special presentation following Shabbat services. Mark Klempner, who lives in Costa Rica, has recently published a book entitled, "The Heart Has Reasons"—www.hearthasreasons.com, that he has spent the last nine years researching. During his nine years of research, he interviewed Holocaust rescuers to try to determine not only why they did what

they did, but where their moral compasses point today, and their advice to young activists. As Garret Keizer describes it, "An invaluable book for anyone who seeks to learn—or relearn—the art of compassionate resistance."



This will be an exciting opportunity for us to listen to the author talk as he is in town for only a few days to address Congress. If you would like to learn more about his work, please visit his web page, <http://bit.ly/zyh40G>, at the New York Council of the Humanities Speakers Bureau. It includes a link to his website, which contains a great deal of additional information.



Attendees at this year's Tu b'Shvat seder donated \$37 (double *chai*+1) to the Green Environment Fund of the New Israel Fund for the planting of a tree.

Installation Remarks

President Sarajane Garten

January 27, 2012

This week's Torah portion is Bo. Not only does this hold importance for Allan Armus, whose *Bar Mitzva* anniversary is this weekend, but it holds importance for all of us. We know this Torah portion as well as any other, for it tells of the final plagues in Egypt and our escape from slavery to freedom. God brings us to freedom with one caveat—we are required to remember. Remember the day this happened, remember the food; remember God's participation in our lives, in our redemption, we are to remember it all. And we do.

We remember it every time we sing *Mi Chamocha*. We remember it every Passover. We are a people that cannot exist without our memories. We remember it every time we transition from personal to communal prayer. For Judaism requires community, we do not, should not and cannot survive without others. We simply cannot thrive in solitude.

This congregation has survived when many have not. Around the country GLBT congregations have closed. Some have been incorporated into larger congregations as *Chavurot*. Some have dissolved over contentious issues, such as whether to allow non-gay people to join; whether to serve families with children or not; whether to affiliate with a specific "branch" of Judaism or not.

Bet Mishpachah has faced some of these same challenges, but, to paraphrase the immortal words of Stephen Sondheim, we're still here. We will continue to be here as long as we can struggle and argue and fight through every hard choice that needs to be made; just like every other family.

I have been asked to share my vision of next year with you. It is simply this: that each of you will find a way to give your time and your talent to this congregation.

Our newsletter editor is stepping down; our first Vice President of Communications has stepped down. We all know that communication is essential; can you imagine not receiving *Mishpachah Matters* every month?

Some folks have said that we can pay people to do tasks such as these; and while that might be an option in some congregations, I say not in this congregation, not this year, and not with the current budget.

More importantly, I was chatting with someone recently and they said something that really stuck with me. In the past, before we paid someone to duplicate stuff and mail the membership renewal papers every year, a group of members would come together and spend a few hours doing it.

In the past, when we sent out New Years' cards, they were not electronic, designed by Hallmark. They were designed by a member and a group of us got together and took care of addressing them.

Obviously, we can pay staff to do things, but the more we do that, the more we will need to increase our income, or in other words, your dues. And, paid staff cannot replace community. Let me say that again, paid staff cannot and never will replace community.

We have important things coming up this year. You will continue to hear about our investigating the creation of a Bet Mishpachah cemetery.

A committee recently asked the Board to take a political position on behalf of the congregation. There are no guidelines, rules, practices or by-laws under which the Board can do that, so you might hear about that shortly. We may need a Bylaws committee; we may not. We'll see.

We hope to publish a new piece of liturgy this year, to be used for Shiva services. You can expect to hear about that, especially if we decide we need some loving sponsors to underwrite its duplication.

Of course, without a communication system in place and folks to help, all of this will be more challenging.

I want to close by thanking every single person that volunteered their time this year. I want to thank everyone who sponsored an *Oneg Shabbat* or a *Kiddush* lunch. I want to thank each and every one of you for being a member of this, my chosen family.

I also want to thank you for respecting the request I made last year; that you refrain from contacting members of the Board during Shabbat. None of us were contacted about congregational business at home. We all felt comfortable when approached at services asking folks to raise concerns after Shabbat. So once again, I ask that unless it is about a death or a serious emergency, you refrain from contacting members of the Board, unless you realize you will not hear back until after *Havdala*.

What I wish for this congregation next year already exists; we have a loving and warm and committed membership, that includes both long time and new members, of every demographic that I can think of. For that blessing we can thank God, whose presence is with us, as it was so long ago at the beginning of the journey that began then, and continues into every next year.

Congregational Life Cycle Events Sought

Our 36th year—and its attendant festivities—may be over, but the idea of celebration and congregational history remains in the forefront of our minds. Unlike our brick-and-mortar counterparts, we have no walls on which to commemorate life cycle events through plaques in the shapes of trees and scrolls. Nonetheless, we don't want to lose this important family lore. Our Archivist, Joel Wind, has graciously offered to compile the information. Please send details (names of participants, dates, etc) for any baby-namings, *b'nai mitzva* and commitment ceremonies/weddings celebrated in the congregation to joelwind@aol.com. If you have information on *simchas* celebrated by people who are no longer members of the congregation, please let Joel know as well.

Welcome!

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Anonymous

Greg Rovick

Welcome Back to Our Returning Members

Jessica Erfer & Michael Gonen



Newsletter Editor Wanted

Would you like to know what's going on in the congregation before just about everyone else? Do you have an eye for detail, an ability to organize information from a number of sources, and a hatred of meetings?

Then have we got a job for you! After five years, the current *Mishpachah Matters* editor is stepping aside. The ideal candidate will have great organizational abilities, a good grasp of written English and some familiarity with congregational Hebrew usage, and the ability to prioritize workflows and newsletter content. You'll work with our fabulous layout person, most of the members of the Board of Directors, several committee chairs, and our crack team of proofreaders. You'll receive training and support until you're ready to solo.

If you are interested in becoming the next newsletter editor, please contact Alex Carter at news-editor@betmish.org.

Help Our Administrator Help Us to Help You

Do you have so many frequent flier miles you don't know what to do with them all? Would you like to make a donation to Bet Mishpachah?

We plan to fly our office administrator up here from his home in Charlotte, for a meeting the first weekend in March. It's a bit of a stretch for the budget.

So, if you have USAir or United miles to spare, consider donating them to the congregation. Please contact Sarajane Garten, president@betmish.org, to make arrangements. Thank you.

Communications Maven Wanted

Do you enjoy working with social media, web sites and e-newsletters? Are you interested in shaping the communications policies of the congregation? If so, we have a job for you.

Our first Vice President for Communications, Mary Arras, is stepping down for personal reasons, and the Board would like to find her successor. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Sarajane Garten at president@betmish.org.

Donations

We appreciate the generosity of our members and friends, and recognize them for their support. Contributions may be made at any time during the year. To make a contribution, send a check payable to Bet Mishpachah, to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, D.C. 20073-0520.

Member Donations

Operating Fund

- ☆ Diane B. Citron, in memory of Robert Mannheimer, father of Barbara Goldberg; in memory of her son, Sean Citron
- ☆ Barry I. Friedman, in memory of his father, Morris Friedman; in memory of his grandmother, Sarah Friedman
- ☆ Sarajane Garten & Catherine Tarabochia

- ☆ Mindy Gasthalter, in memory of Dorothy Brenner, mother of Dan Brenner
- ☆ JonRobert Johnson
- ☆ Jeffrey Nakrin, in honor of Allan Armus's milestone anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah
- ☆ Andrea R. Perll

Joel and Murray Woldman Oneg & Kiddush Fund

- ☆ Allan Armus, Board of Directors *Oneg* or *Kiddush*
- ☆ Barrett Brick, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Alexandra G. Carter, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Beth Cohen & Fran Sneider, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Paul Entis, Board of Directors *Oneg* or *Kiddush*
- ☆ Sarajane Garten & Catherine Tarabochia, Board of Directors *Oneg* or *Kiddush*
- ☆ Mindy Gasthalter, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Michael M., Board of Directors *Oneg* or *Kiddush*
- ☆ Jocelyn Kaplan, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Jeff Kaye & Scott Mezistrano, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Jeffrey Nakrin, Board of Directors *Oneg* or *Kiddush*
- ☆ Beverly Nissenbaum & Marlene D. Cohen, Board of Directors *Oneg* or *Kiddush*
- ☆ Joseph M. Pomper, Past Presidents installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Ruth L. Potts, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Scott L. Reiter & David Vos, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Milton E. Stern, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*
- ☆ Suzanne Wandersman, Past Presidents Installation *Oneg Shabbat*

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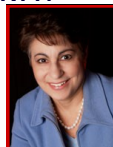


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All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



(Continued on page 11)

Donations

(Continued from page 10)

Non-Member Donations

Operating Fund

- ☆ Wendy Marlowe, in memory of Albert Mapou, father of Robert Mapou
- ☆ Greenspring Village, Employer Match - Elke Martin
- ☆ Isaac & Leah M. Potts Foundation

Joel and Murray Woldman Oneg & Kiddush Fund

- ☆ Fred Lomberg



Rosh Chodesh Group Meets Saturday, March 24th

Rosh Chodesh is the start of a month in the Jewish calendar. Until a fixed calendar came into use in the 4th century, this day was celebrated with special offerings and a festive meal, and the *shofar* (ram's horn) was blown to announce the new month. From Talmudic times until the 18th century, women continued to observe and celebrate this day with limited work duties. In the 1970s, Jewish women revived the *Rosh Chodesh* celebration.

A group of women has been meeting since March 2012 to celebrate *Rosh Chodesh* with a short liturgy, study and a meal. The group is open and you are welcome to join for the upcoming celebration on Saturday, March 24th at 7pm.

Please contact Jutta at yuttab@verizon.net for details and location.

Have You Read a Good Book Lately? Tell Us About It!



The High Holy Day services and study session showed that, as a congregation, we are reading a variety of wonderful and interesting things.

Have you read a really interesting or challenging book on GLBTQ or Jewish themes? Want to tell your congregational family about it? We want to publish your review.

Your review should include your name (as you'd like it to appear) and the title and author of the book. Tell us: what led you, as a GLBTQ Jew or ally, to read this book? What was the most important thing you learned? Why should members of our congregation read it? Feel free to structure your review in a way that works for you. Your review should not exceed 400 words.



Please submit your review to news-editor@betmish.org, by the 10th of the month; after any necessary edits, your review will be printed the next month, or as soon thereafter as there is room.

Member Yartzeits

Announced on Friday, March 2

Ned Umansky	March 2	Uncle of Morris Umansky
Helene Biscoe Kingsley Freed	March 3	Grandmother of Seymour Stern
Israel Stern	Adar I 9	Father of Alvin Stern
Martin Weinstein	Adar I 10	Uncle of Stuart Sotsky
Ruth Seidman	March 6	Aunt of Gail Tannenbaum
Dorothy Noretsky	March 7	Mother of Martin Noretsky
Miriam Cohen Schwartz	March 7	Grandmother of Karl Schwartz
Tom Chase	March 7	Friend of Ruth Potts
Arnie Medvena	March 8	Friend of Alex Carter
Charles Most	March 8	Grandfather of Morris Umansky
Clara P. Manheim	March 8	Mother of Carol Manheim

Announced on Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10

Dora Rodbell Silber	March 9	Grandmother of Fran Sneider
Joseph Gottesman	March 10	Grandfather of Andi Kasarsky
Norbert Munzer	Adar I 16	Cousin of Al Munzer
Arnold Stern	March 10	Father of Milton Stern
Abraham Most	March 10	Cousin of Morris Umansky
Emilio Ruffini	March 10	Father-in-law of Barrett Brick
Arthur Magid	Adar I 17	Uncle of Carl Spatz
Dora Reiter	March 12	Grandmother of Scott Reiter
Angela Carter	March 14	Aunt of Alex Carter
Martin Gross	March 15	Uncle of Mark
Sylvia Youngman	Adar I 21	Aunt of Joel Wind
Philip Magid	Adar I 22	Uncle of Carl Spatz

(Continued on page 13)

Member Yartzeits*(Continued from page 12)***Announced on Friday, March 16**

Beatrice Blank	March 16	Grandmother of Louis Blank
Lillian Pasichow	March 16	Grandmother of Heidi Pasichow
Ben Barlas	March 18	Uncle of Judy Barlas
Harriet Behrens	March 18	Cousin of Mindy Gasthalter
David Bodenstein	March 18	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Leon Smelo	March 18	Uncle of Betty M.
Roy Strassman	March 19	Friend of Larry Neff
Ann Kallman Bixby	March 20	Partner of Arlene Weinstock
Jack David Neff	March 20	Father of Larry Neff
Norman Nusinov	March 21	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Jack Sherman	March 21	Grandfather of Joan Sherman
Mohr Weber	March 21	Grandfather of Denise Leish
Augusta Verdin	March 22	Grandmother of Catherine Tarabochia
Gary R. Fuson	March 22	Partner of Karl Schwartz
Seymour Pasichow	March 22	Uncle of Heidi Pasichow
Esther Topkis Potts	Adar I 29	Aunt of Ruth Potts

Announced on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24

Blanche Baar Stern	March 24	Grandmother of Seymour Stern
Menachem Moriel	March 25	Father of Liora Moriel
Stan Schwartz	March 25	Friend of Larry Neff
Rob Madna	Nisan 3	Foster Brother of Al Munzer
Gustave Stern	March 28	Grandfather of Seymour Stern
Murray Dennis	March 28	Cousin of Morris Umansky
Seymour Bachman	Nisan 5	Father of David Bachman
Seymour Schechter	March 28	Father of Roger Schechter
Joseph Rheingold	March 29	Grandfather of Mindy Gasthalter
Marie Martin	March 29	Grandmother of Elke Martin

(Continued on page 14)

Member Yartzeits*(Continued from page 13)*

David Magid	Nisan 6	Uncle of Carl Spatz
Abraham Singer	March 29	Grandfather of Michael Singer
Harry Selbin	March 29	Grandfather of Denise Leish

Announced on Friday, March 30

Henrietta W. Goldberg	March 30	Mother of Jerald Goldberg
Jan Welch	March 31	Dear Friend of Maxine Klane
Zach Allen	March 31	Friend of Daniel Brenner
Shirley Dwartz	Nisan 9	Grandmother of Paula Morris
Sidney Pasichow	April 1	Uncle of Heidi Pasichow
Leon Jackson	April 1	Partner in professional dance company with Debra Floyd
Anat Levy Shmueli	April 1	Cousin of Michael Singer
Tom Moffett	April 1	Friend of Catherine Tarabochia
Corrine Schechter	April 2	Mother of Roger Schechter
Joseph George Resnick	Nisan 10	Grandfather of Michael Resnick
Lillian Silverman	April 2	Grandmother of Lee Salawitch
Sara Magid Patt	Nisan 11	Aunt of Carl Spatz
David Sheff	April 4	Grandfather of Andrew Marcus
Sandi Gross	Nisan 13	Aunt of Jeff Burka
Eunice Magid Spatz	Nisan 13	Mother of Carl Spatz
Lenore Epstein Bixby	April 5	Friend of Arlene Weinstock



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 Rabbi Bob Saks, *Emeritus*301/864-1240 rabbibob@betmish.org
 Administrator: Larry Ferri office@betmish.org

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