

Mishpachah Matters

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March and April 2016

Mishpachah Matters

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

www.betmish.org

Save the dates, April 8-10, 2016

Join us for the Bet Mishpachah Spring *Shabbaton*, April 8-9, sponsored by the Bet Mishpachah Education Committee, and join The World Congress of GLBT Jews: *Keshet Ga'avah*, April 10, for their 2016 Board Meeting, co-sponsored by Bet Mishpachah.

(Continued on page 4)

Rabbi Green's Spring Classes:

The Book of Esther for Adults

February 25, March 3, 10, and 17

Rabbi Green's Spring Class takes place on four Thursdays between February 25 and March 17 at 7:00 pm at the DCJCC.

"The Book of Esther for Adults: How to Survive as a Minority in a Topsy-Turvy, Scary, Gentile, Sexist, Homophobic, and Sometimes Very Funny Diaspora World."

Classes are free to Bet Mishpachah members. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per class for non-members.

March Madness: Purim Celebration on March 23

Please join us at the DCJCC on Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 pm for our Purim celebration. Alex Carter and Rabbi Ben Shalva will lead us in worship, hijinks, and shenanigans. We'll have a brief but twisted *Ma'ariv* service, a Megillah reading, hamantashen, and much jocular. Alex may even bring her Purim finger puppets. Come in costume if you care to. Be sure to bring your best Purim irreverence!

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The Bet Mishpachah 2016 Shabbaton: Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in a Post-Marriage Equality World

Join us for what promises to be an extraordinary *Shabbaton* weekend as we present two outstanding speakers to discuss and explore issues of equality, diversity, and inclusion in a world in which marriage equality is now the law.

First, on **Friday evening, April 8**, we are honored to present **Chai Feldblum**, Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to discuss upcoming challenges and opportunities for the LGBT community, including various ways to secure employment protection for LGBT people in the workplace. Among her many accomplishments, Commissioner Feldblum is the first openly lesbian commissioner of the EEOC, one of the founders of the Georgetown University Law Center's Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic, and one of the leading advocates behind the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. She may be best known, however, as the principal drafter and advocate behind the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the law which extended the principles and protections of nondiscrimination to individuals with disabilities.

Next, on **Saturday morning, April 9**, we will be joined by Georgetown Professor **Rabbi Julia Watts Belser**, whose work explores common threads among Jewish studies, queerness, feminism, and disability. She will lead us in a lively, interactive workshop to discuss issues of stigma, difference, and diversity arising from both classic Jewish texts and contemporary feminist poetry, and to explore the potent intersections between queer and disability politics. Among her many honors and publications, Rabbi Belser serves on the Board of the Society of Jewish Ethics, holds leadership positions in the American Academy of Religion, and is the author of *A Health Handbook for Women With Disabilities* and *Jewish Values and Disability Rights*, which will soon be published by the Jewish Funders Network.

Having either Commissioner Feldblum or Professor Belser leading a *Shabbaton* program would be amazing; having both of them for a *Shabbaton* weekend is a true honor. Do not miss this very special weekend!

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

Women's Schmooze, Friday, March 4

Open to Bet Mishpachah members and friends. Join us at 6:15pm for small bites (pareve/dairy) and drinks at Erica Gloger's Dupont Circle apartment (1330 New Hampshire Ave, NW) before services. Just bring yourself, we will supply the goodies! We will then walk over together to Bet Mishpachah for 8:00 pm services.

Join us for our monthly musical *Shabbat* service led by Scott Reiter featuring Rabbi Ben Shalva on guitar. DCJCC Social Hall (16th and Q Street NW). Dupont Circle Metro/Bus Line Accessible.

For more information contact Program Director, Sharon Greenbaum, at program@betmish.org.

Spring Forward Pot Luck Oneg, Friday night, March 11

Join us for Friday night services, and bring your favorite "goodie" to share at the *Oneg Shabbat* as we celebrate the coming of spring and longer days.



Do you want to join Bet Mishpachah?

Membership is an opportunity to develop friendships, learn, become involved in your heritage,

and support the only LGBT synagogue in the Washington, DC area. To join Bet Mishpachah as a member is easy, just visit www.betmish.org today. Questions, e-mail vpm@betmish.org.

Fourth Fridays "Classic" Bet Mishpachah Service

Rav Todot (many thanks) to long-time High Holyday and *Shabbat* service leader Paula Morris, who led a terrific Friday night *Shabbat* service last fall in what some people think of as the "traditional" or "classic" Bet Mishpachah style.

Many people liked the service's succinct transitions and *kavanot* (brief thoughts on the meaning and relevance of a prayer) and the many "traditional" Bet Mishpachah tunes. Of course, that depends on when you started attending *Shabbat* services at Bet Mishpachah—for some of us, that was 10, 20, even 30 years ago and melodies do change over time.

In response to your positive feedback, the Religious Affairs Committee (RAC) has proposed designating the *Shabbat* service on the fourth Friday of each month as a "classic" Bet Mishpachah Service starting on February 26.

Subsequent "classic" Bet Mishpachah Services will be held on March 25, May 27, June 24 and July 22. Note that because the first *Pesach Seder* falls this year on Friday, April 22, Bet Mishpachah will not hold *Shabbat* services that night.

Paula has generously offered to help other service leaders revive the "classic" Bet Mishpachah service style for our fourth Friday services. She's coordinating this effort with our Service Leader Scheduler, Scott Reiter.

We hope you'll make a special effort to attend these "classic" Bet Mishpachah *Shabbat* services on the fourth Friday of each month (except April 22). As always, please let the RAC and VP for Religious Affairs Larry Neff know what you think about all our services, including our first Friday "Rock 'N Scroll" musical services and our third Friday "Text Messages: Torah for Today" discussions in lieu of a sermon.

Many thanks to Paula and to all our lay service leaders, as well as to our own Rabbi Laurie Green and to our first Fridays' song-leader/guitarist Rabbi Ben Shalva; for the warm, joyous and inspiring *Shabbat* services they lead for us every week.

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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

E-mail: office@betmish.org

Theater Outing, Saturday, March 26

Join the congregation as we head to Theater J to see *Falling Out of Time* on Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 pm. Al Munzer and Joel Wind are sponsoring the play because it is so powerful. After losing his son in the Israel-Lebanon conflict of 2006, David Grossman wrote his stunning masterpiece, *Falling Out of Time*.

Now, Derek Goldman adapts this haunting tale of loss, solace and hope into a world premiere stage production. In this incandescent fable, a grief-stricken man take leave of his bewildered wife to embark on a beautiful and poetic journey that will change him forever. This astonishing and one-of-a-kind theatrical experience promises to be the season's most moving event.

Following the play, there will be a reception with Theater J's new artistic director, Adam Immerwahr, for Bet Mishpachah. Tickets are just \$20 each. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to social-events@betmish.org.

Selling Your Chametz for Pesach—What a Deal!

Each year in preparation for *Pesach* (Passover), we are bidden to rid our homes of all traces of *chametz*, which is any leavened food produced by the combination of grain and water. The underlying idea is to ensure that the *matza* we eat during *Pesach* is only made from new grain, not from any grain left over from last year.

Due to the “puffed up” nature of *chametz*, it has traditionally has been associated with egotism and arrogance. Therefore ridding our homes of *chametz* before *Pesach* has traditionally been seen as a metaphor for ensuring our own humility, a value that is highly prized in Judaism.

As Tevye the Dairyman from “Fiddler on the Roof” would say, “on the other hand....” In this case, that would refer to the Talmudic principle of “Bal Tash'chit,” which means we should avoid needlessly wasting things, for example, by giving old clothes to charity so they can be used by those in need rather than just throwing out old clothes that we no longer wear.

When applied to *chametz*, the principle of “Bal Tash'chit” suggests that we should not throw out perfectly good food before *Pesach* just to rid our homes of *chametz* that could be used after the holiday ends.

How can we resolve these competing values and traditions? By “selling” any remaining *chametz* in our homes to a non-Jew so that it is not legally in our possession during *Pesach*.

Al Munzer has graciously agreed to coordinate the sale of *chametz* for those who want to observe this tradition. Please

e-mail Al at almunzer@aol.com by April 18 if you would like him to sell your *chametz* for you before *Pesach*. (A small donation to Bet Mishpachah would be appropriate in appreciation for this service.)

Many thanks to Al for providing this service to Bet Mishpachah and a zissen *Pesach*—a sweet (and *chametz*-free) Passover to all.

Calling for Volunteers to Bring Passover HOPE to Needy Jewish Families in Maryland and in Northern Virginia: Sunday, April 17

Bet Mishpachah is once again organizing volunteers to deliver Passover Food Baskets in partnership with JSSA's Holiday Giving Program to those in need in our local Jewish community.

We hope that you will become a part of this *mitzva*.

With your help, Project Hope volunteers deliver around 500 baskets to households!

Project Hope 2016 will take place on Sunday, April 17 and the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) has agreed, again, to be full partners with the Chesapeake Bay Region of B'nai B'rith to sustain this very important community service program. Bet Mishpachah will be participating for the tenth year in a row in Project HOPE! Your participation and help will be especially appreciated given growing poverty.

How to participate: Volunteer teams of two people, driver and rider, will pick up Passover food items at a distribution point and deliver them to needy Jewish families in the Maryland suburbs or 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 *mitzvah* in preparation for the Passover holiday.

The procedures 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. Volunteers pick up individual grocery bags of nonperishable Passover items at the Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville 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 5402 Tamar Woods Court, a location in Fairfax County starting at 11:00 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:

For **NOVA** please send an e-mail to Barbara at bbrenman@verizon.net or call her at 703-548-9485.

For **Maryland**: please e-mail Jutta at yuttab@verizon.net.

If you would like to support the project and cannot be there in person, please sponsor one or more baskets (\$36 fills one basket) by either going on-line to www.jssa.org/BBI, and write Bet Mishpachah as your affiliation, or you can send a check made payable to “B'nai B'rith Project HOPE” to: B'nai B'rith Project H.O.P.E., P.O. Box 4488, Silver Spring, MD 20914, and note your affiliation with Bet Mishpachah.

Interview with Marco Fiammelli, head of the Italian Jewish GLBT organization, Magen David Keshet Italia

[In anticipation of the visit of the Board of the World Congress (*Keshet Ga'avah*) to join Bet Mishpachah, a founding member organization, for our *Shabbaton* April 8-10, we are publishing this interesting interview with the leader of our sibling group in Rome about the state of LGBT rights and politics in Italy and its Jewish community. —Stuart Sotsky]

1) Hi Marco, could you introduce yourself to our readers? What is your personal and organizational background? What are your motivations for volunteering with Magen David Keshet Italia?

I am a professional soldier in the Italian army, I've lived for almost 10 years with my partner Federico with whom I made the *ghior* [formal conversion to Judaism] in 2012 in Paris at the Mouvement Juif Libéral de France (MJLF). As I often say, I always found a connection between Judaism and homosexuality, the same organizational capacity, the same need to organize themselves into groups to meet and work together for the same target and the same ideals. Even when the environmental situation is unfavorable or even dangerous. You can be discriminated as a gay [person], you can be discriminated as a Jew, but you can also be discriminated by Jews as a gay and by gays as a Jew, often because people identify Jews with Israel.

2) Marco, could you tell to our audience which may not know well Magen David Keshet Italia a little bit more about your organization? Tell us about its history and its mission?

Exactly one year ago I organized with the Reform Jewish community of Rome of which I am also co-founder, a conference on "The Jews and homosexuality" that achieved great success with critics and audiences. This exposure of the community on such a specific subject must have scared someone on the board, who decided that pushing too hard on these issues would alienate some members. In any case, they made it clear that for the community LGBT was not a priority. So I decided to continue by myself and with only my partner's support, I created our Facebook group, and involved some friends in the project which immediately got a lot of interest. We took part as a group in the Gay Pride of Rome, which has given us the opportunity to be known nationwide also thanks to the media, intrigued by our rainbow flags with the Magen David. Suddenly everyone in Rome knew about us. Our mission is to help Jewish homosexual people to live their lives with serenity without having to give up any part of their personality, especially for those who are religious. There is nothing wrong with being homosexual; all of us were created according to a divine plan.

Save the dates, April 8-10, 2016

(Continued from page 1)

Friday, April 8, 10:00 am (reservation required)	Walking Tour of Jewish Washington
Friday, April 8, 6:30 pm, dinner (reservation required for dinner), 8:00 pm, Shabbat evening services	Shabbaton Dinner, followed by Shabbat evening services led by Rabbi Laurie Green, guest speaker Chai Feldblum (see accompanying article on page 1), and a tasty <i>Oneg Shabbat</i>
Saturday, April 9, 10:00 am	Shabbat morning services led by Rabbi Laurie Green, delicious <i>Kiddush</i> lunch, and guest speaker Rabbi Julia Watts Belser (see accompanying article on page 1)
Saturday, April 9, 3:00 pm (reservation required)	U.S. Holocaust Museum docent tour
Sunday, April 10, 9:00am Guest Speaker, 4:00pm	World Congress GLBT Jews Board Meeting

Call or email Barbara "Goldy" Goldberg at (703) 548-1086 or vp@glbtjews.org for more information or to make reservation for the tours.

To make a reservation for the dinner, please visit <http://www.betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar/event/1291-shabbaton-congregational-dinner>. The cost of the dinner is \$26/member and \$33/non-member. You can pay via PayPal, using the button below, or by sending a check made payable to Bet Mishpachah to Mindy Gasthalter, 1725 17th Street NW, #208, Washington, DC 20009. If you have dietary restrictions or questions regarding the dinner, please email social-events@betmish.org.

HOME HOSPITALITY NEEDED in WASHINGTON, D.C.:

Please email Goldy at vp@glbtjews.org, to extend home hospitality to World Congress delegates in need of a place to stay for the Bet Mishpachah *Shabbaton* and World Congress Board Meeting.

Save the Date

Bet Mishpachah Celebrates

its 40th Anniversary with brunch

on Sunday, May 22 Details coming soon

Interview with Marco Fiammelli

(Continued from page 4)

3) Could you describe the main activities of your association? I know that you are organizing a conference in the next few days on the occasion of Remembrance Day of Shoah entitled “The reasons for the silence—the pink triangle in the Shoah.” Could you tell us a little bit more about this event in particular?

So far we have participated in an official way in all events organized by other LGBT organizations, especially those related to the demands of a Law on civil unions. We have successfully organized our first Seder of Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot and Hannukah. On January 28, we will be at the [Italian] Senate for the conference “the reasons for the silence—the pink triangle in the Holocaust.” The conference commemorates the persecution of homosexuals under the Nazi and fascist regimes. Starting from an analysis of the different socio-historical contexts, the different specific pieces of legislation that were inevitably intertwined with the anti-Semitic laws, but especially from the testimonies of survivors (Jewish and non-Jewish homosexual), we will analyze the genesis, development and specificity of persecution in Germany and Italy. The event has already received the support of almost all the Italian Jewish institutions, LGBT associations and the Israeli embassy in Rome.

4) Could you describe to our readers the situation and the rights of LGBT people in Italy? What are the more recent evolutions? What are the remaining struggles that are still to come?

Italy is the only Western European country currently with no law allowing same sex unions. On January 28, the debate for a law will start in Parliament, which looks not simple at all because the Catholic MPs are strongly against it, and even the Catholic Church took to the field to stop the law. Yesterday there were demonstrations in 100 Italian cities with over a million people calling for the rapid adoption of a law, and on January 31, Catholic associations have organized a “family day” in Rome in defense of the traditional family. As you can understand, we fell half a century behind the rest of democratic Europe.

5) Many people inside and outside the Jewish community are worried about the rise in anti-Semitism in Europe. Could you give us your feeling about the situation in Italy?

The situation in Italy is not as serious as in France or northern Europe, nonetheless everyone is very worried about the resurgence of anti-Semitic feeling in the world. Even in Italy there is more attention from the authorities to the protection and control of synagogues and Jewish institutions, for the threat coming from Islamist extremism, also considering that in Rome this year the Catholic Church celebrates the holy Year. The general sentiment of the Italian people for Jews is good, anti-Semitic incidents are very rare and not very effective.

6) As I said at the beginning of the interview, your organization, Magen David Keshet Italia joined the family of the World Congress recently. Could you tell us your motivations for joining us?

Is important for us to be part of Keshet Ga'avah, because this allows us to be more influential in the institutions, both the Jewish and the [national] ones, to contribute, to build up and be part of a network for exchanging information and ideas. We as a group in Italy are small and young and so we need an organization that has expertise and experience to help us and advise us in our choices.

7) As you know, the World Congress is organizing its annual Board Meeting in Washington in April. We look forward to meeting you personally during this event. Would you have a last message you'd want to convey to our members?

I will come to Washington DC for the annual meeting of the Board, I will take part with pleasure to debate with other members of Congress. All of us at Magen David Keshet Italia are very pleased to be part of Keshet Ga'avah [and] hoping to be supported in our first steps and work together for the future.

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.

Statement on the Creating Change 2016 Conference of the National LGBTQ Task Force

[The scheduled program of A Wider Bridge and the Jerusalem Open House was first cancelled, then reinstated, but protested and disrupted as described by anti-Semitic and anti-Israel participants and outsiders from the LGBTQ community. —Stuart Sotsky]

Letter to the National LGBTQ Task Force

January 27, 2016

To: Rea Carey, Executive Director,
National LGBTQ Task Force

We send this letter as members and leaders of the LGBTQ community. Some of us are Jewish; some of us are not. Some of us have spent time visiting or living in the State of Israel; some have not. Indeed, like the population of Israel itself, we have diverse, and often sharply conflicting, views about the difficult issues raised by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the best way to resolve them.

What we all do share is our history and experience in connection with the struggle for LGBTQ equality in the United States and elsewhere. Many of us have not only contributed significantly to the enormous strides that have been made towards LGBTQ equality in recent years, but have devoted our lives and careers to that cause. The purpose of this letter is to unequivocally express our collective and deep concern about what transpired at the Task Force's 2016 Creating Change Conference in Chicago, Illinois (CC16) on Friday, January 22, 2016 with respect to A Wider Bridge, an organization that fosters relationships between Israel and the LGBT community (AWB), and the Jerusalem Open House of Pride and Tolerance (JOH).

While some of us were at the conference to witness the events of January 22, there were also a number of published reports. More than 100 protesters succeeded in physically intimidating and ultimately shutting down a reception organized by AWB featuring Israeli speakers from JOH. It has been reported—and videos taken contemporaneously confirm—that the protesters chanted slogans like “Palestine will be free from the river to the sea,” which necessarily suggests that the State of Israel should no longer exist. Another protester shouted, “We are going to challenge these Zionist racist motherfuckers.” There were also reports of altercations between the protesters and the reception guests. Witnesses saw a man get into a scuffle with the protesters and have his yarmulke knocked off his head. In a separate incident, there is a report of an individual who was called “kike.”

We applaud the fact that the initial decision by Task Force staff to stop AWB and JOH from hosting a reception in the CC16 was reversed by the Task Force. We are aware that the 100-200 protesters were among a conference of 4,000 participants and have no reason to believe that what transpired outside the reception on January 22 reflects the views or experiences of the majority of the 4000 conference goers. We also know that there is a Jewish Movement Building Working

Group as part of the Task Force's Creating Change conference, which has, for many years, done important work ensuring Jewish voices are an integral part of the conference and conversation.

Nevertheless, the events of January 22 in Chicago were unacceptable and not in accord with the Task Force's values of pluralism, inclusivity and thoughtful debate. The targeted organizations' reception was disrupted and shut down by protesters (including people not attending the conference) with such hostility and aggression that speakers and attendees at the event were justifiably terrified and felt physically threatened. We are united in our belief that what transpired at CC16 was dangerous, deeply disturbing, and given the use of epithets like “kike,” clearly anti-Semitic.

The larger question posed by all of this is where do we as a progressive social movement go from here? What is the Task Force's responsibility in this situation? What values does the Task Force wish to embody? We understand that the Task Force has undertaken to conduct a review of its policies in this regard and we congratulate that decision. We believe that the review should be conducted by an outside, independent party charged with determining what happened, how it happened, and what will be done to ensure that it will not happen again.

We also believe that the Task Force as well as all other LGBTQ organizations need to consider and adopt some form of an “active pluralism” policy with respect to these issues. Such a policy, while respecting the free speech rights of individuals and groups, would not allow protesters to effectively censor the speech of other groups, much less threaten the physical well-being and safety of those with whom they do not agree, including Jewish and Israeli LGBTQ groups. Given the concentrated and organized hostility that is so often displayed against Jewish and Israeli LGBTQ groups, and the stark rise in global anti-Semitism, it is even more important that we as a community promote civil and respectful debate. It is intellectually, politically and morally dishonest to claim that in the name of freedom, liberation, or some other progressive ideal, there is a right to target and exclude Jewish/Israeli groups, to foment physical intimidation and harassment, and to encourage anti-Semitism.

There is a long and ugly history of this kind of censorship where individuals with controversial ideas and viewpoints have been silenced in the name of the “greater good.” We should know by now that such censorship results in fewer (not more) good ideas and greater (not lesser) oppression of us all. Indeed, given that we come from a movement where LGBTQ people were effectively shut out from participation in the public discourse for so many years, what happened at CC16 was extremely dangerous. If we as a movement really believe in the values we profess to hold dear, then it is time to put an end to this.

Drash **By Rabbi Cindy Enger,** **Congregation Or Chadash,** **January 29, 2016**

[Rabbi Green's Introductory Note:

In January, I had the honor of joining American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and rabbinic colleagues on a mission to the Dominican Republic, as a Global Justice Fellow. Upon returning home from the DR, and learning about the anti-semitic events at Creating Change in Chicago, I was overcome by grief at the brokenness of the world. When I read the *drash* of my colleague Rabbi Cindy Enger, of our sister LGBT synagogue Or Chadash in Chicago, I was touched. I share her words (slightly shortened) with you with her permission, because her congregation was so personally affected by this tragedy. I learn from her perspective and her congregants who were there.

On a personal note, I would like to add the following. Since Cindy shared this *drash*, there has been much debate in the press (including The Blade) about whether the events at Creating Change were truly anti-semitic. Some of you may have seen the video which clearly conveys chants of "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." As far as I'm concerned, that chant is a threat to kill Jews, and is undeniably anti-semitic, and well beyond the bounds of civilized discourse or political protest. I join in calling upon NGLTF to learn from their mistakes and prevent anything of this sort from ever happening again.

Please don't read this *drash* and then go on with your day. If you have not done so already, please go to <https://ajws.org/action/dr/> and sign the petition for the U.S. to take a stronger position advocating for an end to the statelessness crisis of the 200,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent who were denationalized. And please take the second step of emailing me to tell me that you signed it and tell me your state/city, so I can help AJWS track the numbers for lobbying.

One last thing, the *drash* below will mention Deivis, who I met and was quite impressed by. Check out the article about him at: <http://www.glaad.org/blog/historic-lgbt-candidacy-dominican-republic>. I find life in Washington, especially LGBT life in Washington, can make us forget just how much our activism matters. Your petitions and your editorials and your *tzedaka* dollars and your Shabbat dinner conversations really do matter. I saw it with my own eyes. Now I'll let Cindy tell you her Chicago perspective on Creating Change and the DR.]

Last Friday night, while many members of the Or Chadash community were downtown at the Hilton participating in the Creating Change Conference Shabbat service and intending afterwards to listen to the speakers from Jerusalem Open House during the reception sponsored by A Wider Bridge, I was sharing Shabbat in the mountain town of Jarabacoa in the Dominican Republic with nine other rabbinic colleagues and several staff members of American Jewish World Service

("AJWS") as part of a six month global justice fellowship. We traveled to Jarabacoa last Friday after spending a week in the capital city of Santo Domingo, where we met with people from a number of human rights organizations and listened to the powerful stories and struggles of so many Dominicans. I was privileged to be present and witness deep moral courage expressed by human beings living in the midst of discrimination, poverty and pain.

My heart broke wide open as I listened to 22 year-old C___ speak of being picked up by military police and threatened with deportation to Haiti if he did not provide the demanded money of extortion. In tears, C___ spoke of working 17 days for an employer, finishing the job on a Friday, told to come back on Saturday for payment but by then the employer was gone. Now undocumented due to changes in the constitution, which have stripped Dominicans of Haitian descent of their citizenship, C___ had no legal recourse. He is vulnerable and a victim of modern-day slavery.

I was brought to tears by H___, who told her story of beginning studies at the university at age 40. H___ was born in a batey, which is very much like a ghetto, of immigrant parents, who registered her as a Dominican, as they then were able to do. Attending university as a 40 year old head of household from the batey was nearly unheard of. What a great success!

But then, after 3 years of university study, just 4 courses from graduating, H___ was told that her papers had been suspended because her parents were immigrants. She could no longer attend university until she provided her papers. She was again and 1 of 6 again jerked around by government officials. It took H___ 7 years to receive her papers.

H___ and so many others are discriminated against because their parents immigrated from Haiti. Dark-skinned, French last names, Creole accents, more than 200,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent are now stateless, undocumented, unable to attend high school or vote; vulnerable to extortion and deportation. "They took so much from me," said H___. "They took my life direction and course." But she joined in the human rights movement organized by one of AJWS's partner organizations named reconoci.do, and is now looked at as the "mother in the movement, a role model for many young people."

I listened as human rights attorney Jenny and movement leader Rosa Iris spoke with political staff members of the US Ambassador's office. These two women called for justice on behalf of their people, who are now confronting statelessness, asking that the US take a stronger stand on the issues. Their courage, calm and persistence was extraordinary.

We met with COTRAVETD, an organization dedicated to supporting the rights, health and well-being of trans sex workers, a most vulnerable community within the larger Dominican population. To be transgender in the Dominican Republic is to face limited employment opportunities, barriers to healthcare and stigmatization since childhood, often starting at home and in school. On the cover of the brochure for

(Continued on page 8)

Drash By Rabbi Cindy Enger

(Continued from page 7)

CONTRAVETD is a 20 year-old, who died when, in the midst of a medical emergency brought on by self-medicating with hormones, her doctor would not treat her, calling her a monster, an extra-terrestrial.

I met leaders and volunteers who are part of REVASA, an organization working for equality, advocacy and support for the LGBT communities. I listened to Deivas, who is running for political office — as an openly gay man and a devout Catholic. “Yo soy un politico gay y yo soy un politico Catolico.” In a moving campaign-style speech, Deivas said, “What we want is not just for ourselves but for the whole world. Ours is a message of love.”...

I returned to Chicago late last Sunday night. I was tired from the day of travel and the intensity of the week. But before going to sleep, I wanted to check email and Facebook to glance briefly at what was going on here at home. I began to read of the events last Friday night at the Hilton. From speaking with many of you who were there, and others as well, what happened last week sounds less like a protest and more like threats and demonization of the Jewish other.

That there was no physical injury, nor any escalation from you who attended and the others attempting to make their way into the room reserved for the reception, wanting to hear from the speakers from Jerusalem Open House, is a testament to your humanity, your moral courage. I am sorry that you and others were subjected to such hatred and assault. It was wrong.

Much has been written. Many have spoken out.

The work of healing and justice has not completed, though much has taken place this past week. For those of you who were present last Friday night at Creating Change, I hope that you have been taking good care of yourselves, reaching out for support, beginning to heal...

Throughout the week, I have been thinking about how what I learned and witnessed in the Dominican Republic might teach us about this moment that we Jews, who are lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or allies of the LGBTQ community and movement, find ourselves in now.

As a number of articles have noted, what happened last Friday night constitutes a failure of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and conference leadership to do what it pledged to do through the conference — to create safe space for inclusion and dialogue. This constitutes a failure of accountability and will be the downfall of an inclusive LGBTQ movement if amends are not made to those who were affected — Jerusalem Open House, A Wider Bridge, Or Chadash, the other synagogues, Jewish communal organizations and individuals who were present and victimized by the hateful disruptions and hijacking of a conference program...

What I experienced in the Dominican Republic is the power of telling our stories, the power of listening with hearts open. Through sharing and listening, the story of I becomes the story of we. The story of they becomes the story of us. In the we

and us, solidarity is born. In the Dominican Republic, I learned of the challenges facing real people — Dominicans of Haitian descent, women and children, LGBT people, trans sex workers. I heard their stories that include both terrible discrimination as well as tremendous moral courage and risk-taking for themselves and for others.

What happened last week at the Creating Change conference was a breakdown in solidarity and moral courage. Slogans and shallowness silenced truth, facts and rational thinking. The voices of LGBT activists from Israel in no way serves as a denial of or distraction to awareness of the suffering of Palestinians. Quite the opposite.

What happened last week at the Hilton was wrong and hateful. For those who were present and hurt by the ugly, anti-semitic words and behavior, I pray that healing comes soon and completely. For all of us, we can learn from the people I met in the Dominican Republic and we can learn from the failures at the Creating Change Conference — moral courage is not about dehumanizing or vilifying the other. Moral courage comes from lifting up stories, from giving voice to what has been silent. ...

In our Torah portion for this week, *parashat Yitro*, from the book of Exodus, our ancestors, recently released from slavery in Egypt, enter the wilderness of Sinai and encamp there. We read in the Torah: “On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the wilderness of Sinai. Having journeyed from Rephidim, they entered the wilderness of Sinai and encamped in the wilderness. Israel encamped there in front of the mountain, and Moses went up to God. (Ex. 19:1-3). In the Hebrew, the verbs are all initially in the plural — ba-u and vayavo-oo (they entered), va-yisu (they journeyed), vayakhanu (they encamped). And then in the very next verse, the Israelites become Israel and the verbs are no longer in the plural but rather become singular — Israel encamped. Va-yikhan Yisrael neged hahar. Rashi comments that this change from the plural to the singular suggests that only when the people transcended their differences and quarrels to become one people were they fit to receive Torah.

So, too, for all of us. In a world with so much us vs. them, of growing incivility and breakdown in respectful dialogue and conversation, with far more generation of noise than there is willingness to make space for listening, Torah in the present tense is elusive, as is any real instruction or revelation.

It is not that God is not speaking. Listen. The Divine Presence is revealed in the words of...Deivas, ...C___ and H___, Jenny and Rosa Iris. God speaks to us in the efforts of Jerusalem Open House to advance the rights and dignity of Israeli Jews and of Palestinians. God calls to each one of us to find within that seed of moral courage — to advance justice, to honor the dignity of all human beings, to hold the particular and the universal, to tell the story of I and also to connect with the story of us/we, to stop seeing the world in terms of us against them. Listen. When we are quiet, we can hear God speaking. May we be blessed as we tell our stories. ...

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 7:00 pm, Rabbi Green's Spring Class, DCJCC	<i>4</i> 6:15 pm, Women's Outreach Event, Erica Gloger's Dupont Circle apartment (see page 2) 8:00 pm, Rock 'n Scroll Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services, DCJCC, Service Leader: Scott Reiter, featuring Rabbi Ben Shalva on guitar	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:00 pm, Rabbi Green's Spring Class, DCJCC	<i>11</i> 8:00 pm, Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services and Spring Forward Pot Luck <i>Oneg</i> (see page 2), DCJCC, Service Leaders: Jutta Brettschneider and Eryca Kasse	<i>12</i> 10:00 am, <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Services, DCJCC, Service Leader: Paula Morris
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 7:00 pm, Rabbi Green's Spring Class, DCJCC	<i>18</i> 8:00 pm, Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services— Text Messages: <i>Torah</i> for Today, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Laurie Green	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 6:45 pm, Board Meeting, DCJCC	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 7:30 pm, Erev Purim Service, DCJCC, Service Leaders: Alex Carter and Rabbi Ben Shalva (see page 1)	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 8:00 pm, Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services— Classic Bet Mishpachah Style (see page 2), DCJCC, Service Leaders: Rabbi Laurie Green and Paula Morris	<i>26</i> 10:00 am, <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Services, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Laurie Green; 8:00 pm, Theater Outing— <i>Falling Out of Time</i> , DCJCC (see page 3)
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		For the most up-to-date calendar information and community events, go to http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For the most up-to-date calendar information and community events,	go to http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar				1 8:00 pm, Rock 'n Scroll Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services, DCJCC, Service Leaders: Rabbi Laurie Green and Rabbi Ben Shalva	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 10:00 am, <i>Walking Tour of Jewish Washington*</i> ; 6:30pm, <i>Shabbaton</i> Dinner*; followed by 8:00 pm Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Laurie Green (*Reservation required, see page 1)	9 10:00 am, <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Services and <i>Shabbaton</i> (see page 1), DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Laurie Green
10 3:00 pm, U.S. Holocaust Museum docent tour, (Reservation required, see page 1) Deadline for May/June newsletter articles and content	11	12	13	14	15 8:00 pm, Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services—Text Messages: <i>Torah</i> for Today, DCJCC, Service Leader: Allan Armus	16
17	18 6:45 pm, Board Meeting, DCJCC	19	20	21	22 First Passover Seder (No <i>Shabbat</i> Services)	23 10:00 am, <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Services, DCJCC, Service Leaders: Jeff Burka and Marc Bernstein (<i>Torah</i> discussion)
24	25	26	27	28	29 8:00 pm, Erev <i>Shabbat</i> Services, DCJCC, Service Leader: Louis Blank	30

Thank You!

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

Want to remember a loved one, celebrate a special event, or just help the *Oneg* and *Kiddush* coordinator? You can do this by sponsoring an *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush* luncheon. It's simple and pain free. Contact Barbara "Goldy" Goldberg at oneg@betmish.org or call her at (703) 548-1086 to save your date and receive more information.

Can't sponsor? Consider sending a donation of Chai (\$18) or more to bring extended life to the Joel and Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Fund, established by a generous bequest from our beloved member Joel Woldman. Make donations online at <http://www.betmish.org/index.php/donate> or mail to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, DC 20073-0520.

Contact Goldy and volunteer to shop in the absence of a loving sponsor.

January 1: Joel and Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Fund, thanks to Marc and Jeff for extra goodies

January 8: Murray Woldman, in commemoration of his mother, Lillian Woldman's *yartzeit*

January 9: Maxine Klane, in commemoration of the first *yartzeit* of her mother, Marcia Peltzman

January 15: Allan Armus, celebrating his *Bar Mitzva* anniversary

January 29: Past Presidents, in honor of the incoming Board of Directors

February 5: Bet Mishpachah Board of Directors, in honor of the new members

February 12: Sue Silber, in memory of her father, Gene Silber, and grandfather of Danielle and Avi

February 13: Joel and Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Fund, thanks to Sue Silber for shopping

February 19: Joel and Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Fund

February 26: Joel and Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Fund

February 27: Barbara and LySandra GoldbergBrady, in honor of the 2015 *Oneg* and *Kiddush* sponsors

Thank You to Our January and February Service Leaders

Friday, January 1: Larry Neff and Rabbi Ben Shalva

Friday, January 8: Rabbi Laurie Green and Alex Carter

Saturday, January 9: Rabbi Laurie Green

Friday, January 15: Allan Armus

Friday, January 29: Rabbi Laurie Green and Larry Neff

Friday, February 5: Larry Neff and Rabbi Ben Shalva

Friday, February 12: Rabbi Laurie Green

Saturday, February 13: Rabbi Laurie Green, Tim Kynerd-*Torah* discussion

Friday, February 19: Rabbi Laurie Green

Friday, February 26: Paula Morris and Louis Blank

Saturday, February 27: Alex Carter and Ruth Potts

Celebrate!

March Member Birthdays

March 2	JonRobert Johnson
March 12	Charles Stewart
March 12	Thomas Sachs
March 14	Rick
March 18	Richard Grossman
March 21	Bob Niemic
March 22	Eric Tobin
March 28	Batya Hyman
March 28	Mike Greenwald
March 30	Davi LaBarre
March 31	Mark Agrast

April Member Birthdays

April 2	Abbey Farkas
April 2	Hank Londner
April 3	Carol Stern
April 5	Cecilia
April 6	Fred Mitzner
April 7	David Schwarz
April 8	Bruce Frishman
April 9	Gail Tannenbaum
April 10	Keith Cohen
April 10	Barbara Goldberg
April 11	Rachel Wolkowitz
April 13	Harvey Stoler
April 13	John Winterson
April 14	Liora Moriel
April 20	Robert Hollis
April 20	Susan Silber
April 23	Jocelyn Kaplan
April 24	Jeff Burka
April 26	Paul Entis
April 27	Breana McHugh
April 28	Mark
April 28	Sharon Greenbaum
April 29	Scott Segal

The Rumor Is True

Rabbi Green and Mira are expecting the birth of their daughter in April. Watch your email for information on names, ceremonies, and other joyous details.

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Beth Cohen, a member who has served as president for three years and service leader of Bet Mishpachah, and currently is the Spiritual Leader of Seaside Jewish Community in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware; upon receiving her rabbinical ordination from the ALEPH Rabbinic Program.

Mazal Tov to Jutta Brettschneider, upon opening her own business in College Park, "The Movement Clinic."

March Member Anniversaries

March 1	Jeff Akman and Steven Mazzola
March 1	Eva Freund and Elke Martin
March 26	Belinda Cross and Batya Hyman

April Member Anniversaries

April 16	Louis Blank and Dan Yost
April 18	Ellen Levy and Joy Savage

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.

December 2015—Member Donations

Mark Leonard Goldfarb Memorial Accessibility Fund

- ✧ Anonymous, in memory of Marc Goldfarb
- ✧ Allan Armus, in memory of Marc Goldfarb

Operating Fund

- ✧ Anonymous
- ✧ Anonymous
- ✧ Anonymous
- ✧ Anonymous, in honor of his loving family
- ✧ Joel Berelson, in memory of his mother, Jan Berelson Dickstein
- ✧ Louis Blank, in honor of his parents, Shelley and Mike Blank
- ✧ Keith Cohen, in memory of his mother and father, Dolores K. Cohen and Maxwell Joseph Cohen
- ✧ Belinda Cross and Batya Hyman
- ✧ Nathaniel Deutsch, in honor of the 69th wedding anniversary of his parents, Leon and Sylvia Deutsch
- ✧ Steven Frank
- ✧ Barry Friedman, in memory of his father, Morris Friedman; grandfather, Rev. Samuel Mendelson; grandfather, Harry Friedman; grandmother, Sarah Friedman
- ✧ Jerald Goldberg, in memory of Dr. James Olson
- ✧ Hazel Groman, in honor of Allan Armus
- ✧ Richard Grossman, in honor of David Fox and Robert Margrave on the joyous occasion of their marriage
- ✧ Travis Hatch and Scott Segal
- ✧ Jack Hillelsohn
- ✧ Robert Hollis and Donald Jewler, in memory of Mark David Adams, nephew of Larry Neff, and in memory of Aba Adams, niece of Larry Neff
- ✧ Deborah Hyman and Paula Morris
- ✧ Maxine Klane
- ✧ Georgia Korn and Diane Liff, in memory of Aba Adams, niece of Larry Neff
- ✧ Martin Less
- ✧ Carol Manheim
- ✧ Jeffrey Nakrin, in honor of Elke Martin and Eva Freund, and in honor of the marriage of David Fox and Robert Margrave
- ✧ Larry Neff
- ✧ James Poles
- ✧ Robert Saks
- ✧ Roger Schechter and Craig Ziskin, in memory of Corrine and Seymour Schechter
- ✧ Stuart Sotsky
- ✧ Warren Snaider
- ✧ Morris Umansky

- ✧ Elyse Wander, in honor of Joe Pomper's new assignment
- ✧ Mark Weinberg, in memory of his parents, Annette and Max Weinberg
- ✧ Steven Weinberg
- ✧ Noah Wofsy

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ Chad Appel and Dennis Johnson, in appreciation of Rabbi Green officiating our beautiful wedding ceremony

Joel and Murray Woldman Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush Fund

- ✧ Mindy Gasthalter, in honor of the wedding of David Fox and Robert Margrave
- ✧ Michael Greenwald
- ✧ Jocelyn Kaplan
- ✧ Georgia Korn and Diane Liff
- ✧ Denise Leish and Suzanne Wandersman
- ✧ Martin Less
- ✧ Elke Martin
- ✧ Joseph Pomper
- ✧ Scott Reiter
- ✧ Fran Sneider
- ✧ Joel Wind

December 2015—Non-Member Donations

Operating Fund

- ✧ Randall Bell
- ✧ Richard Berke
- ✧ Sandor and Florence Bernstein, in honor of Marc Bernstein and Jeff Burka
- ✧ Wendy Bernstein
- ✧ Jack, Jessica, and Michael Erfer-Gonen, in honor of our friends at Bet Mishpachah
- ✧ Jean Freedberg
- ✧ Peter Froehlich, in honor of Allan Armus
- ✧ Stephanie Handel, in honor of Ken Carroll
- ✧ Leib Kaminsky, in honor of Allan Armus
- ✧ Barry Kessler
- ✧ Annabel Kramer, in memory of her parents, Helen and Milton Kramer
- ✧ Jay Krampf, in memory of his son, Richard David Krampf
- ✧ Jeffery Mendell
- ✧ Judith and Seymour Pomper, in honor of their son, Joseph Pomper
- ✧ Isaac and Leah M. Potts Foundation, in continued support of Bet Mishpachah
- ✧ Shelley Sarrin, in memory of Jeffrey Sarrin
- ✧ Justin Schechter

Richard Krampf Memorial Social Action Fund

- ✧ Jack, Jessica, and Michael Erfer-Gonen, in honor of Warren Snaider's retirement from government service

(Continued on page 14)

Donations

(Continued from page 13)

January 2016—Member Donations

Operating Fund

- ✧ Philip Budashewitz
- ✧ Alexandra Carter
- ✧ Barry Friedman, in memory of Sylvia Belkin and in memory of his grandmother, Sarah Friedman
- ✧ Letitia Gómez
- ✧ Al Munzer and Joel Wind
- ✧ Warren Snaider, in honor of Allan Armus' 59th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah
- ✧ Stuart Sotsky, in memory of Aba Adams, niece of Larry Neff, and Mark David Adams, nephew of Larry Neff
- ✧ Murray Woldman, in memory of his beloved twin brother Joel M. Woldman

Richard Krampf Memorial Social Action Fund

- ✧ Letitia Gómez

Joel and Murray Woldman Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush

- ✧ Mindy Gasthalter, 2016 Installation Shabbat, in memory of Lynn Foster, sister of Alex Ford, and in honor of Beth Cohen's ordination as rabbi
- ✧ Murray Woldman, in memory of his beloved twin brother Joel M. Woldman

January 2016—Non-Member Donations

Operating Fund

- ✧ Randall Bell
- ✧ Rebecca and David Burka
- ✧ Michael Chase
- ✧ Larry Ira Cohen
- ✧ Jeff Kaye and Scott Mezistrano, 2016 Installation Shabbat
- ✧ Robert Love
- ✧ Deborah and Efrem Potts, in honor of Ruth Potts and Alex Carter
- ✧ Norman Schwartz, in memory of parents his Isadore and Bella Schwartz
- ✧ Barry Sherbal, to help Bet Mishpachah reduce its debt shortfall

Joel and Murray Woldman Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush

- ✧ Barry Sherbal, to help with *onegs* that I have missed for many years



Member Yartzeits

March 2016

Announced Friday, March 4 (*Yartzeits* observed March 4-10/*Adar I 25-Adar II 1*)

Ruth Seidman	March 6	Aunt of Gail Tannenbaum
David Temple	March 6	Father of Riley Temple
Tom Chase	March 7	Friend of Ruth Potts
Dorothy	March 7	Mother of Bet Mishpachah member
Arnie Medvene	March 8	Friend of Alex Carter
Charles Most	March 8	Grandfather of Morris Umansky
Clara P. Manheim	March 8	Mother of Carol Manheim
Dora Rodbell Silber	March 9	Grandmother of Fran Sneider
Clarence	Adar I 29 (March 9)	Father of Glenn
Esther Topkis Potts	Adar I 29 (March 9)	Aunt of Ruth Potts
Murray Eneman	Adar I 30 (March 10)	Grandfather of Jeffrey Berns
Joseph Gottesman	March 10	Grandfather of Andi Kasarsky
Abraham Most	March 10	Cousin of Morris Umansky
James Olson	March 10	Partner of Jerald Goldberg
Aaron Rosenberg	Adar I 30 (March 10)	Maternal grandfather of Deb Hyman

Announced Friday, March 11, and Saturday, March 12 (*Yartzeits* observed March 11-17/*Adar II 2-8*)

Dora Reiter	March 12	Grandmother of Scott Reiter
Angela Carter	March 14	Aunt of Alex Carter
Martin Gross	March 15	Uncle of Mark
Beatrice Blank	March 16	Grandmother of Louis Blank
Donald Haines	March 16	Friend of Eryca Kasse
Kenneth Cross	March 17	Brother of Belinda Cross

Announced Friday, March 18 (*Yartzeits* observed March 18-24/*Adar II 9-15*)

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
Clara Manheim	Adar II 9 (March 19)	Mother of Carol Manheim
Roy Strassman	March 19	Friend of Larry Neff
Mary Ford	March 20	Mother of Alex Ford
Jack David Neff	March 20	Father of Larry Neff
Myer Jacobson	March 21	Grandfather of Andrew Abrams
Mohr Weber	March 21	Grandfather of Denise Leish
Jack Halpern	March 22	Grandfather of Roger Schechter
Augusta Verdin	March 22	Grandmother of Catherine Tarabochia
Blanche Baar Stern	March 24	Grandmother of Seymour Stern

Announced Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26 (*Yartzeits* observed March 25-31/*Adar II 16-22*)

Dolores Jennetta	March 25	Mother of Andrea Jennetta
Menachem Moriel	March 25	Father of Liora Moriel
Stan Schwartz	March 25	Friend of Larry Neff
David Snaider	Adar II 15 (March 25)	Uncle of Warren Snaider
Jackie Gentry	March 26	Friend of Alex Carter and Ruth Potts
Murray Dennis	March 28	Cousin of Morris Umansky
Seymour Schechter	March 28	Father of Roger Schechter
Gustave Stern	March 28	Grandfather of Seymour Stern
Marie Martin	March 29	Grandmother of Elke Martin
Joseph Rheingold	March 29	Grandfather of Mindy Gasthalter
Harry Selbin	March 29	Grandfather of Denise Leish
Abraham Singer	March 29	Grandfather of Michael Singer
Henrietta W. Goldberg	March 30	Mother of Jerald Goldberg
Jan Welch	March 31	Dear friend of Maxine Klane

(Continued on page 16)

Member Yartzeits*(Continued from page 15)***April 2016****Announced Friday, April 1 (Yartzeits observed April 1-7/Adar II 23-29)**

David Grossman	Adar II 22 (April 1)	Grandfather of Joseph Pomper
Leon Jackson	April 1	Partner in professional dance company with Devra Floyd
Tom Moffett	April 1	Friend of Catherine Tarabochia
Anat Levy Shmueli	April 1	Cousin of Michael Singer
Rae Freeman Allman	April 2	Grandmother of Beth Cohen
Shelly Lomberg	Adar II 23 (April 2)	Niece of Allan Armus
Rona Riibner	April 2	Cousin of Larry Neff
Corrine Schechter	April 2	Mother of Roger Schechter
Stephen Lee	April 4	Spouse of David Schwarz
Samuel Spatz	Adar II 26 (April 5)	Grandfather of Carl Spatz
Barbara Kohn Katz	April 6	Sister of Margy Kohn

Announced Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9 (Yartzeits observed April 8-14/Nisan 1-7)

Alan Cohen	April 9	Uncle of Beth Cohen
Irving Goodman	April 9	Father of Alan Goodman
Sonya Gross	April 9	Aunt of Mark
J. Lloyd Elsten	April 10	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Simon Gordon	April 10	Uncle of Maxine Klane
Edna Korn	April 10	Mother of Georgia Korn
Shirley Leish	April 10	Grandmother of Denise Leish
Sylvia E. Liff	April 10	Mother of Diane Liff
Monica Lobo Filho Baruch	April 11	Member of Bet Mishpachah
B. Neal Klenke	April 11	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Rob Madna	Nisan 3 (April 11)	Foster Brother of Al Munzer
Seymour Bachman	Nisan 5 (April 13)	Father of David Bachman
Leland Manuel Reiner	April 13	Friend of Karl Schwartz
Sean Sebastian	April 13	Nephew of Denise Leish
Rumi Burnett	April 14	Mentor and friend of Elke Martin
David Magid	Nisan 6 (April 14)	Uncle of Carl Spatz

Announced Friday, April 15 (Yartzeits observed April 15-21/Nisan 8-14)

Abraham Cohen	April 16	Father of Larry Ira Cohen
Abe H. Goldberg	April 16	Father of Jerald Goldberg
Alfred Salomon	April 16	Brother-in-law of Eva Freund and Elke Martin
Shirley Dwartz	Nisan 9 (April 17)	Grandmother of Paula Morris
Elsie Freund	April 17	Mother of Eva Freund, Mother-in-Law of Elke Martin
Debbi Willett	April 17	Friend of Jack Hillelsohn
Donna Floyd	April 18	Cousin of Devra Floyd
Joseph George Resnick	Nisan 10 (April 18)	Grandfather of Michael Resnick
Sara Magid Patt	Nisan 11 (April 19)	Aunt of Carl Spatz
Annie Singer	April 19	Grandmother of Michael Singer
Elizabeth Anne Hubner	April 20	Friend of Morris Umansky
Phyllis F. Scheinberg	April 20	Friend and colleague of Larry Neff
Morris Sobel	April 20	Grandfather of Carol Stern
Dolores K. Cohen	April 21	Mother of Keith Cohen
Sandi Gross	Nisan 13 (April 21)	Aunt of Jeff Burka
Glenn Neuman Rein	April 21	Partner of Morris Levitt
Eunice Magid Spatz	Nisan 13 (April 21)	Mother of Carl Spatz

(Continued on page 17)

Member Yartzeits*(Continued from page 16)***Announced Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23 (Yartzeits observed April 22-28/Nisan 15-21)**

Nikki Felch	April 22	Friend of Catherine Tarabochia
Miriam Londner	April 22	Mother of Hank Londner
Louise Kadun Chiprut	Nisan 15 (April 23)	Grandmother of Beverly Nissenbaum
Rebecca Sharp	Nisan 15 (April 23)	Grandmother of Murray Woldman
Jacques Carle	April 24	Partner of Jack Hillelsohn
Max Klane	April 24	Grandfather of Maxine Klane
Judith Smith	April 24	Partner of Diane Citron and Member of Bet Mishpachah
Arthur Dwartz	Nisan 17 (April 25)	Grandfather of Paula Morris
Manya Gass	April 25	Aunt of Eileen Greenberg
Saul Gass	April 25	Uncle of Eileen Greenberg
Mary Madna	Nisan 18 (April 26)	Aunt of Al Munzer
Salvadore Montanino	April 26	Paternal Grandfather of Michael Montanino
Alexander Frank	April 27	Grandfather of Steven Frank
Manuel Less	Nisan 19 (April 27)	Father of Martin Less
Minnie Casel Lev	April 27	Grandmother of Larry Neff
Helen Gitelson Neff	April 27	Aunt of Larry Neff
Martin Reiter	April 28	Father of Scott Reiter
Ida Snaider	Nisan 20 (April 28)	Mother of Warren Snaider

Announced Friday, April 29 (Yartzeits observed April 29-May 5/Nisan 22-28)

Betty Saks	April 29	Mother of Rabbi Bob Saks
Leah M. Potts	Nisan 22 (April 30)	Grandmother of Ruth Potts



Bet Mishpachah Communications

This newsletter is published bimonthly 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 LGBT 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 secretary@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.

Parking: Additional free parking for Friday night services is available at the surface lot at the Scottish Rite Temple starting at 7:30 pm. The lot will be closed and locked and all cars must be removed by 10:30 pm. Parking is at your own risk. The Temple is at 16th and S Streets NW; entrance to the lot is from the alley that connects 15th and 16th in the block between R and S Streets.

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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 communications@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 LGBT 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

Become a partner in the *mitzva* of *Bikur Cholim*—visiting the sick—by advising our *Bikur Cholim* Committee, rabbi, or president when you or a relative is hospitalized. We can stay informed ONLY if we receive the information. Please email us at 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.

Donations

To make a donation to our congregation, please send it to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, D.C. 20073-0520. Or you can donate via PayPal from the "Donations" page on our web site, www.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.

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