

Mishpachah Matters

Issue 80.16 and 80.17

Tevet/Sh'vat/Adar 5781

January and February 2021

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# Mishpachah Matters

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

[www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org)

## From the Archives

By Joel Wind, Archivist

For our Double Chai, 36<sup>th</sup>, anniversary, I went through the congregation's archives and pulled together some interesting events and activities in the life of Bet Mishpachah. Since we have completed our 45<sup>th</sup> year, I have decided to reprint these brief yearly highlights and continue where I had left off. There were many other activities over the past years; these are just a few highlights that show how we far have traveled.

This month's column is devoted to the years 1975 - 1979.

**1975:** The congregation was formed as the Metropolitan Community Temple (MCT)-Mishpocheh. The Steering Committee was chaired by Lyle (?). In **November**, a dance was held at Temple Sinai.

**1976:** In **June**, Ed Blacher, z"l was elected as President of the Steering Committee, and incorporation papers were filed with the District of Columbia. The Chanuka *Oneg* in **December** was a great success.

**1977:** In **April**, a pot-luck was held in Joel Martin's home. Aaron Exler was elected President in **June**, but resigned that same month and Joel Martin was chosen to replace him. Rabbi Max Ticktin from the Hillel Foundation spoke at Shabbat Service on Judaism & Homosexuality. In **July**, MCT began holding Shabbat services on the first and third Friday nights. Esther Ticktin led a discussion on Jewish Feminism in **November**.

**1978:** The Purim party in **March** was successful. In **May**, MCT received notice from the First Congregational Church, where the congregation was been meeting, that the rent was going to be doubled. The congregation decided to find new quarters. MCT was declared tax exempt by the IRS. In **June**, the congregation elected Michael Greenwald as President and the synagogue moved to Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC). The dues were raised to \$18 from \$10 in **July**. In **September**, MCT began Lesbian outreach and in **October**, Shabbat services were increased to weekly.

**1979:** In **January**, the first Friday of each month was designated as Women's Outreach. In **March**, the board decided to elect board members in June, but not have them take office until September. The congregation elected Jerry Friedman as President in **June**. In **August**, \$450 was sent to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations as a deposit for a Torah scroll from England. In **October**, the congregation's name was changed to Congregation Bet Mishpachah. The Family and Friends Shabbat was well attended in **November**.

Next Month: 1980 - 1983

## Tu B'shvat Arrives

By Rabbi Jake Singer-Bellin

I grew up in a beach town in Southern California. For the most part, the trees kept their leaves throughout the year. Winter was far from severe. I am now in the midst of my seventh East Coast winter, and I am still stunned when I look at the barren trees. How is it that they can still be alive? It seems as though they will never bud again, as if green leaves will never return to their branches. And yet, when spring comes, these brown and grey natural sculptures surprise me with renewal.



*Tu B'Sh'vat*, which comes at the end of January this year, celebrates the trees and all that we receive from them. But look outside, the trees are bare. We celebrate this holiday in the winter when, arguably, the trees are at their least beautiful, their least useful. And yet, we observe this holiday by eating a variety of fruits and nuts, by sharing teachings from our tradition that stress the importance of trees to our way of life, even to our survival. It is not a holiday that dwells in the wintry present, but that looks ahead. *Tu B'Sh'vat* is a holiday about looking toward the future. It is a holiday about hope. Not about what is, but about what can be.

By celebrating this holiday in the winter we are saying that we believe that the trees will come back to life, and that we will once again benefit from their leafy shade, from their fruit, from their beauty – green in the spring and summer and red and orange in the fall.

The Talmud relates a story about Honi the Circle Maker. "One day he was traveling on the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi said to the man, "How long does the tree require to grow and produce fruit?" The man answered, "70 years." Honi said, "do you think you will live for 70 years?!" The man replied, "I found the world with carob trees; just as my fathers planted for me, I too am planting for my children. Honi sat down to have a meal and sleep overcame him. As he slept a rocky formation enclosed upon which hid him from sight, and he continued to sleep for seventy years. When he awoke he saw a man gathering the fruit of the carob tree and he asked him, "Are you the man who planted the tree?" The man replied: "I am his grandson." (Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 23a).

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# Upcoming Events

## Board Installation: Friday, January 29th

Board Installation *Shabbat* will be Friday, January 29, 2021. This is the *Shabbat* service where we acknowledge and thank the outgoing board for their hard work and dedication, and welcome the new board as they get ready to start their work on February 1, 2021. This year's transition is somewhat small as we only have one new director, Rod Ross, joining the board, with four directors agreeing to serve again.

In years past, we've had the tradition of passing the *Torah* from one generation (past president) to the next, but with a virtual service this year, we'll be recognizing each past president formally from the *bima* instead.

Please join us as we thank the outgoing board and welcome the incoming board.



## Celebrating our New Members: Friday, January 22nd at 8:00 pm

Bet Mishpachah is fortunate to have an increasing membership. Some are getting their feet wet, so to speak, to find how they feel most comfortable in the Bet Mishpachah community; others have jumped right in and are active in planning and

committee work. Either way, we welcome them and would like to honor them on this day and thank them for joining us. Understandably, we cannot embrace them in person, but hope that day will come in 2021. Join us to welcome the newest members of our family at Shabbat services on January 22nd when we can raise our glasses and toast them all. *B'ruchim Ha Baim*—Welcome all!

## Women's First Friday Pre-Service at 6:30 pm

Join us for our continuing virtual First Friday women's outreach pre-service. Pour your favorite beverage to drink and make your favorite dinner dish to eat while you zoom into our gathering and usher in Shabbat with great company and conversation. Last month we had a wonderful interstate gathering. What a unique opportunity to see one another in these trying times. Our gatherings are followed by our uplifting *Erev Shabbat* services. *We hope you will join us!*

If you have any questions, please email Paula at [morrispa24@gmail.com](mailto:morrispa24@gmail.com).

January 1 - celebrate the first day of the New Year together - with song and dance. Find a favorite song for a new beginning or a new attitude or hope for 2021.

February 5 - Black History Month celebration

*\*We use an inclusive definition of "woman" and "female" and we welcome trans women, genderqueer women, and non-binary people.*

## Mizmor Shabbat Musical Services Continue on 2nd Fridays

Bet Mishpachah's popular, lively and uplifting *Mizmor Shabbat* musical services continue on the 2nd Friday of every month as part of our Friday Shabbat service:

**January 8**—Rabbi Ben Shalva

**February 12**—Robyn Helzner

Plan to join us for this musical service filled with lots of singing and *ruach* (spirit). The Psalmist wrote: "*Shiru l'Adonai shir chadash, shiru l'Adonai kol ha-àretz*" — "Sing unto G-d a new song, sing unto G-d all the earth!" We look forward to having you join Bet Mishpachah in uplifting songs at our musical services.



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## Do you want to join Bet Mishpachah?

Membership is an opportunity to develop friendships, learn, become involved in your heritage, and support the only LGBTQ synagogue in the Washington, DC area. To join Bet Mishpachah is easy, just visit [www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org) today. Questions, e-mail [membershipdirector@betmish.org](mailto:membershipdirector@betmish.org).

## Tu B'Shvat arrives

(continued from page 1)

This is a holiday about looking toward the future and doing the necessary work in order to ensure that the world and its natural environment are there for generations to come.

*Tu B'Sh'vat* is also about the hope we have for ourselves. Who we are now is not necessarily who we need to be in the future. By believing in a more beautiful future for the trees, we also foster a belief in a more beautiful future for our world, and our role in it.

*Tu B'Sh'vat* shows us how important it is to hope and believe in a world more whole, more beautiful than it is at present. It shows us that the better future, perhaps even the messianic age, is possible, and that we must work to make it happen.

## Rabbi Jake's Probing Winter-Spring Classes

Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin will be teaching four new probing classes this winter and spring. They are free-standing so you are welcome to attend one or all but you won't want to miss any of them. All classes will be held virtually.



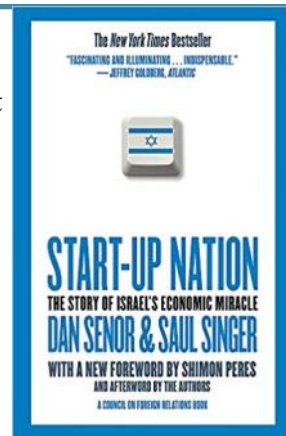
**Session 1, Saturday, January 23 at 12:00 pm:** Medical Ethics - Jewish answers to life's difficult questions. Judaism is our guidebook for life, and offers insight when we face ethical dilemmas. It comes as no surprise, then, that Judaism has something to teach us when we face the sometimes difficult choices and dilemmas regarding our health and well-being. We will discover the core texts that inform Jewish medical ethics, examine some cases where Judaism has weighed in, and hear from some of the leading voices in this realm.

**Session 2, Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30 pm:** Reading "How to Be an Antiracist," After some initial work that we have done together towards racial justice, we will take the next step in this essential journey by discussing the ideas in Ibram X. Kendi's book, "How to Be an Antiracist." Please read the book ahead of time and come ready to share your understanding of the themes within, as well as an open mind and listening ears. We will also examine the Jewish values that we see at play here, and explore how we can move toward antiracism in our lives and in our congregation. Even if you were not able to attend the discussion on "White Fragility," we hope you will attend and participate in this important discussion. This class is a joint program between the Education Committee and the Social Justice Committee.

## Bet Mishpachah Book Group

On **Monday, January 11, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.**, we will discuss Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle, by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. How is it that Israel, a small country only decades old, in a constant state of war since its founding, and with few natural resources, produces more start up companies than large, wealthy, peaceful nations like Japan, Korea, Canada and the UK? With the savvy of foreign policy insiders, Senor and Singer examine the lessons of the country's adversity-driven culture, which flattens hierarchy and elevates informality, backed up by government policies fostering innovation. The book is available in hardcover, paperback, Kindle and audiobook. All Bet Mishpachah members are welcome to attend.

Email [bookgroup@betmish.org](mailto:bookgroup@betmish.org) to obtain Zoom meeting information



**Session 3, Saturday, March 13 at 12:00 pm:** Does Judaism allow euthanasia? What about cremation? When a loved one dies, what are the core practices that Judaism upholds in order to help us process and heal? These questions are usually asked at the last minute, when we are dealing with the stress and pain of saying goodbye. Let's spend some time together learning from the wisdom of our tradition in order to plan ahead, become inspired, and feel firm in the choices we will all need to make sooner or later. This class is a joint program between the Education Committee and the Bereavement Committee

**Session 4, Wednesday, April 21:** Jewish Understandings of the Afterlife: There are some religious traditions that clearly state their concept of the Afterlife, but for Jews, it's no always so cut and dry. From the Torah, to rabbinic literature, to more modern understandings, we will explore what our tradition believes happens to us after we die. No matter what your personal belief may be, there's a good chance you'll find a basis for it somewhere in Judaism.

Details to attend each class will appear in our weekly newsletter, Facebook page [www.facebook.com/betmish](https://www.facebook.com/betmish), and website [www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org). Classes are always free for members of Bet Mishpachah. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for nonmembers which may be made on our website.



## Spotlight on: *Bikkur Cholim* Committee

By *Letitia Gomez*

*Bikur Cholim*, is Hebrew for “visiting the sick” and is a term which encompasses a wide range of activities performed to provide comfort and support for people who are ill, homebound, isolated and/or otherwise in distress.

*Bikur Cholim* is one of the important deeds included in *Gemilut Chassadim* – the performance of deeds of loving kindness. The act of *Bikur Cholim* is a *mitzva* and reflects the primary Biblical value, “And you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18).

The *Bikur Cholim* Committee checks in on congregational family members who are ill and in need of a helping hand. From time to time we receive requests from Bet Mishpachah members seeking visitors at home or in the hospital, a ride to a medical appointment or surgery or help with shopping or errands. It is important that those in need feel connected to our community when they are ill or homebound and this contact can lift their spirits and have a positive impact on their well being. The Talmud tells us that each time a sick person receives a visit, this *mitzva* takes away 1/60<sup>th</sup> of the sufferer’s pain. During the current pandemic we have had less in-person contact but our virtual outreach has been well received nonetheless.

As the membership of our congregation ages, our need for volunteers has increased and we welcome new members to join our committee. The time commitment is up to you and your schedule, and volunteers will be provided with additional guidance on how to best perform this important *mitzva*. If you are interested in joining the *Bikur Cholim* Committee, have any questions about our mission, or are in need of our services, you can reach us at [bikurcholim@betmish.org](mailto:bikurcholim@betmish.org).



## Chanuka 2020

On Tuesday, December 15, the 6<sup>th</sup> night of Chanuka 2020, we gathered virtually along with GLOE, Nice Jewish Boys and Nice Jewish Girls to celebrate. We lit our candles, shared a few readings and sang songs. There were 25 of us who talked of Chanuka’s past, our favorite topping for latkes, and got a chuckle out of Rabbi Jake’s “ugly” Chanuka sweater (thanks to his wife, Rabbi Rachel Ackerman). While there’s no substitute for being together, it was a delightful way to celebrate the end of the holiday.



## Looking Towards 2021

By *Mindy Gasthalter, President*

I thought it would be different by now. I thought we’d be approaching the new year with the numbers under control and declining, hospitalizations falling, the trend positive. Instead, we are falling behind. It’s all going downhill much faster than anyone suspected. New cases are soaring so much so that we are adding 1 million to the ranks every week and there are more than 100,000 people currently hospitalized.

But, it’s not all bad news. Vaccines are on the horizon; although for me, a healthy 60-year old with no underlying medical issues and an ordinary job; I cannot imagine I’ll be getting a vaccine before the summer at the earliest. And, unless DC can get more vaccines than we are currently slated to receive, the “summer” may actually be 2022, not 2021.

While none of this is particularly good news, Bet Mishpachah has taken the pandemic and our limitations in stride and have been functioning quite well. As I mentioned in the year-end appeal, we’ve successfully learned how to hold services virtually, and attendance is up at most events that we hold due to the convenience of being able to stay at home to participate; our High Holy Day services were beautiful and meaningful albeit different; we are saving \$3,000/month for every month we are not back at the EDCJCC which helps our bottom line, although I know everyone would prefer to be together; our Rabbi has extended his contract with us through June 30, 2022; and thankfully, few in our congregation have been impacted from either a health or financial perspective. (And, please remember, if you do need help – either financially or health-wise – to let the board know so that we can connect you to potential resources.)

The Strategic Planning Task Force continues to meet and fine tune our goals, objectives and action items. I am hopeful that it will be presented to the board in its final iteration at the February meeting, which is the first meeting for the new board. We welcome Rod Ross, who will be joining us a Director of Operations (formerly Administration). (And a heartfelt thank you to Barry Friedman who agreed to step in and serve for one year when the person in the position resigned before the end of her term.) Everyone else whose time on the board was coming to a close agreed to continue to serve, and I agreed to continue for another year as President.

The Board is looking for volunteers to “help” with virtual services. In particular, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to scroll/turn the pages for the service leaders. It’s not a difficult task, and if you are willing to help, please email [religiousaffairsdirector@betmish.org](mailto:religiousaffairsdirector@betmish.org). I expect service leader training will be starting soon, and if you are interested in learning how to become a service leader, please email [religiousaffairsdirector@betmish.org](mailto:religiousaffairsdirector@betmish.org).

I wish all of you a safe, healthy and joyful New Year. My wish for 2021 is a vaccine for everyone, more positive and less negative, a focus on all that we have to be grateful for even though we are in a pandemic, and more loving kindness and a renewed focus on our spiritual community and congregation. We will get through this together and be stronger for it once we can return to more normalcy.

**Bet Mishpachah's Veterans**



Major Al Munzer:  
Andrews Air Force Base  
1972-1974



Jerry Goldberg  
California National Guard  
Korean War—1950-1952



Barbara Goldberg  
Service Branch USAF  
1978-2002



Henry  
Morris  
  
Lifetime  
member  
of JWV  
  
Served in  
WWII



Morris Umansky  
US Navy  
1968-1989



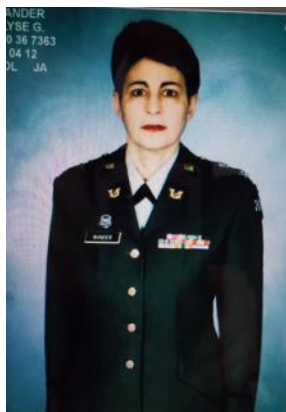
Sargant Harvey Stoler  
US Army  
1971-1993



Joel Wind  
US Army in South Vietnam  
1967-1969

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Lt. Colonel Michael Goldstein  
Army, 21 years  
Warren Snaider  
Army 1970-1972



Elyse Wander  
US Army JAG Corps  
1978-2008

**Celebrating Purim 2021**

As with so many other events this year, we will not be able to celebrate Purim together this year, which falls on February 25. Join us at Friday services, February 26 for a Purim program.

In the meantime, here is a bit of information for reflection: Ahasuerus is identified as the historical Xerxes, the same Persian king who was challenged by the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae and whose fleet was routed by the Athenians at Salamis. It is interesting that this same figure who comes down in Western culture as a diabolical villain is depicted as a fool in Jewish culture. Xerxes' queen was Amestris. Despite the name similarity, she is not known to have been Jewish. Apparently, there was also a courtier named Mar-duk in Xerxes' court.

**SEEKING VOLUNTEER TO LEAD BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**

With the great news of Rod Ross, current Chair of the Bereavement Committee assuming the Director of Operations position in 2021, we are now seeking a volunteer to take over the Committee Chairmanship. Rod has graciously agreed to continue acting as Bereavement Chair until a new leader can be found. This vacancy provides is a great opportunity for a member to step up and take on leadership of this critical life-cycle function to help our wonderful congregation.

The key responsibility of this committee is to arrange and coordinate logistics for Bet Mishpachah *shiva* services and provide information for new bereaved members on access to funeral and burial services in conjunction with our Rabbi and the Cemetery Committee. After being notified of a death, the Chair typically sends a note of consolation to the bereaved member and offers our services, most notably a *shiva* service and meal of consolation for the household. The Chair also works with our Administrator to arrange a special Bet Mishpachah Bulletin offering the Congregation's sympathy and details of a service event, if one is planned.

The committee typically consists of 3-5 members. We are very fortunate that Bet Mishpachah is a member of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater DC and therefore has arrangements with local Jewish Funeral Homes that will provide respectful services in the Jewish tradition and at reasonable cost. The Bereavement Committee also coordinates with the small group of highly qualified members who volunteer to provide individual Bereavement Support and *shiva* services in each of the three local jurisdictions.

Please feel free to reach out to our outgoing chair, Rod Ross at [Bereavement@BetMish.org](mailto:Bereavement@BetMish.org) to answer any questions you might have regarding the responsibilities of the Chair's position.

# Celebrate!

## Member Birthdays

### January

Steven Frank  
Barbara Becker  
Ronni Karambeles  
Eryca Kasse



### February

Edward Comer  
Alex Ford  
Davina  
Erica Gloger  
Patrick Gossett  
Barry Kropf  
Arthur Leabman  
Barbara Lewis  
Elke Martin  
Joseph Pomper  
Michael Singer  
Fran Sneider  
Morris Umansky  
Suzanne Wandersman  
Nancy Polikoff

## Member Anniversaries

### January

Mark David Agrast and David Hollis  
Edward Comer and Alex Oporto  
Miriam Eisenstein and Carol Stern  
Davi LaBarre and Janet Szabo  
Gena Schoen and Rik Edwards

### February

Mindy Gasthalter and Janine Levin  
Dense Leish and Suzanne Wandersman  
Betty Milgram and Beverly Deppen  
Alvin Stern and Angelo Sierra

### Mazal Tov to

Rachel Hamberger and Evelyn Andresen on their recent engagement

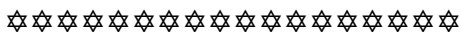
### Welcome back to our Members:

Morris Levitt  
Beverly Nissenbaum and Marlene Cohen

# Thank you!

## Thank You to Our November and December Service Leaders

- Friday, November 6: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Paula Morris
- Friday, November 13: Scott Reiter
- Saturday, November 14: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, November 20: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, November 27: Louis Blank
- Saturday, November 28: Jeff Burka and Marc Bernstein
- Friday, December 4: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, December 11 Larry Neff
- Saturday, December 12: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, December 18: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, December 25: Alex Carter and Ruth Potts
- Saturday, December 26: Scott Reiter



### Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile was created by Amazon as a way for those who shop on Amazon to give to their favorite charity. Bet Mishpachah is now enrolled in Amazon Smile You can shop and have .5% of what you buy come to your favorite synagogue. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know – but now a part of your purchase price donated to Bet Mishpachah. To enroll, visit Amazon Smile. Enter your user name and password as you would normally do. At the next screen, “Start Picking Your Charity,” enter Bet Mishpachah, hit “select,” click “Yes, I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support Bet Mishpachah,” so START SHOPPING and support Bet Mishpachah with every purchase.





## 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, and mail to **Bet Mishpachah P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C. 20013** or visit our website at [betmish.org/donate](http://betmish.org/donate).

## October and November 2020 Member Donations

### Mark Goldfarb Memorial Accessibility Fund

Devra Floyd  
Rod Ross, in honor of Allan Armus  
Rod Ross, in memory of Lenore Wolf Gnat  
Rachel Wolkowitz, in memory of Richard Taub

### Woldman Oneg and Kiddush Fund

Evan Zukerman and Kasey Bigsby  
Mindy Gasthalter, in honor of Evan Zukerman & Kasey Bigsby's wedding

### Operating Fund

Barry Kropf  
Jeffrey Berns, in memory of his mother, Selda Berns  
Mindy Gasthalter, in honor of Rachel Hamberger's engagement  
Mindy Gasthalter, in memory of Lenore Wolf Gnat  
Mindy Gasthalter, in memory of Juliette Haymes  
Barbara Goldberg & LySandra Brady in appreciation of High Holy Day services  
Don Jewler & Robert Hollis, in memory of David Murphy  
Janine Levin, in honor of Mindy Gasthalter's 60th birthday  
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn, in memory of David Murphy  
Alvin Stern, in memory of the *yartzeit* of his grandparents  
Davina, in memory of her father, Alfred  
Juli Cooper (non-member), *yasher koach* to Rachel Hamberger for leading HHD services and her 40th birthday  
Michael Greenwald (non-member), in honor of Larry Neff for conducting an incredible *shiva* service

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Robert Beilin (non-member)  
Rachel Wolkowitz, in memory of Leonore Wolf Gnat

### High Holiday Donations—non-members

Laurie Schneider  
Robert Renard  
Ilene Fishman

### Yizkor—members

Mark L  
Larry Neff  
James Radack  
Michael Singer

We know that these continue to be challenging times for us in many ways. If any member is in need of help getting food and supplies, needs advice for a particular situation, or would like to have someone to talk with, please contact Paula at:

[programmingdirector@betmish.org](mailto:programmingdirector@betmish.org).

## Although we are not meeting in person, consider sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush

Even though we have not seen one another for a long time, occasions still occur in our lives so why not sponsor a virtual *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush* now in honor of a *simcha*, or in memory of a loved one, or just because. Although we cannot currently meet in person, consider making a donation of *Chai* (\$18) or more to the Joel and Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Fund for the very same reasons, so that when we are finally able to return to being together, there are funds available to support our Oneg Shabbats and Kiddush lunches. Your sponsorship will be announced at services.

Want to sponsor? We have dates available into 2021. Just sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baaac2fabfa7-oneg](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baaac2fabfa7-oneg). Kindly donate via the link at: <http://www.betmish.org/donate> or mail a check to

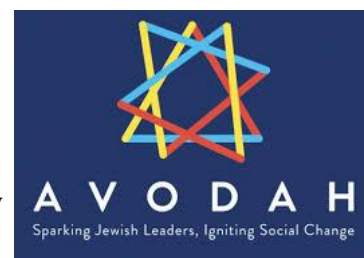
**Bet Mishpachah,  
P.O. Box 1410, Washington, DC, 20013**

Host or Sponsor  
an Oneg Shabbat



## MLK and National Day of Service Shabbat Friday, January 15, at 8:00 p.m.

Bet Mishpachah will be joined by Avodah during and after Shabbat Services. This will be a great opportunity for our members and guests to learn more about this important organization that develops lifelong social justice leaders whose work is informed by Jewish values and who inspire the Jewish community to work toward a more just and equitable world.



## Siddurim Available

Bet Mishpachah's *Siddur, Shavat va-Yinafash*, is available for a suggested donation of \$40. During this time of self-isolation, you may find it a comfort to have a *Siddur* at home for reference, personal reflection and prayer. If you are interested, email [president@betmish.org](mailto:president@betmish.org).



# January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Bet Mishpachah follows the Triennial reading cycle—this year is Year 1 of the 3-year cycle			Visit <a href="http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar">http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar</a> for the most up-to-date information and community events	Weekly Torah readings can be found at <a href="http://www.hebcal.com/sedrot">www.hebcal.com/sedrot</a>	<b>1</b> 6:30 pm <b>Women's Outreach Potluck</b> (see page 2) 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rachel Wolkowitz and Paula Morris	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Mizmor Shabbat with Rabbi Ben Shalva</b> (see page 2) 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Ben Shalva and Scott Reiter	<b>9</b> 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Larry Neff
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Book Group meeting 8:00 pm (page 3)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin National Day of Service program with Avodah	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Inauguration Day</b>	<b>21</b> 6:45 pm Board of Directors Meeting	<b>22</b> <b>New Member Shabbat</b> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin	<b>23</b> 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Allan Armus 12:00 pm: Rabbi Jake's class (see page 3)
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Tu B'shvat</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Installation Shabbat</b> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Louis Blank	<b>30</b>



# February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
January 31	1	2	3	4	5 6:30 pm <b>Women’s Outreach Potluck</b> (see page 2 for details) 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Eryca Kasse	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Mizmor Shabbat</b> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Larry Neff and Robyn Helzner	13 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Paula Morris
14	15	16	17 7:30 pm—Rabbi Jake’s class (see page 3)	18 6:45 pm Board of Directors Meeting	19 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Allan Armus	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Purim</b> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Larry Neff	27 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
28			Visit <a href="http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar">http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar</a> for the most up-to-date information and community events.	While the EDC JCC is closed, Bet Mish will hold services, classes and Women’s Outreach via Zoom .		

### We extend our sincerest sympathy to our member who have experienced recent losses:

Lenore ("Lenny") Wolf Gnatt, grandmother of Erica Gloger  
 Juliette Haymes, mother of Mitchell Haymes  
 Seymour Pomper, father of Joseph Pomper  
 Susan Sojourner, former member of Bet Mishpachah  
 Beverly Miller, cousin of Stuart Sotsky  
 Neil Edward Lazan, brother of Andrew Abrams  
 Martin Friedman, uncle of Barry Friedman

### Member Yartzeits

#### Announced Friday, January 1 (Yartzeits observed January 1 - 7; 17 – 23 Tevet)

Phil Moss, Member of Bet Mishpachah	January 1
Alan Roberts, Founding member of Bet Mishpachah	January 1
Gary Bruce Berns, Father of Jeff Berns	January 1 (Tevet 17)
Jane Burka, Mother of Jeff Burka	January 2 (Tevet 18)
Lynn Foster, Sister of Alex Ford	January 2
Harold Lax, Uncle of Stuart Sotsky	January 2 (Tevet 18)
Elinor Carlton, Mother of Patricia Carlton	January 3
Margot Lax, Aunt of Stuart Sotsky	January 3 (Tevet 19)
Joe Lucero, Friend of David Fox	January 4 (Tevet 20)
Hannah Wandersman, Mother of Suzanne Wandersman	January 4 (Tevet 20)
Hannah Berman, Mother of Larry Berman	January 4 (Tevet 20)
Marty Lisberger, Friend of Ruth Potts	January 4
Max Kaplan, Grandfather of Jocelyn Kaplan	January 5
Robert Breeze, Partner of Charles Stewart	January 5
Fannie Frouman, Grandmother of Allan Armus	January 6 (Tevet 22)
Morris Cohen, Grandfather of Marlene Cohen	January 6 (Tevet 22)
Ida Magid, Grandmother of Carl Spatz	January 7 (Tevet 23)
Pauline Resnick, Grandmother of Michael Resnick	January 7 (Tevet 23)
Darlene Iva Wood, Friend of Devra Floyd	January 7
Charles "Chuck" Fortinsky, Father of James Fortinsky	January 7
Euclid Tarabochia, Grandfather of Catherine Tarabochia	January 7

#### Announced Friday & Saturday, January 8 & 9 (Yartzeits observed January 8 -14; 24 Tevet – 1 Sh'vat)

Paul Lev, Uncle of Larry Neff	January 8
Harold Garten, Father of Sarajane Garten	January 9
Jerry Davis, Friend & member Bet Mishpachah of Larry Neff	January 9
William Most, Uncle of Morris Umansky	January 9
Morrie Green, Uncle of Tom Sachs	January 9
Martin Bennett, Father-in-law of Jeffrey Berns	January 9 (Tevet 25)
Lillian M. Woldman, Mother of Murray Woldman	January 11 (Tevet 27)
Joe Vostrizansky, Father of David Vos	January 11
Edith Fried, Aunt of Eileen Greenberg	January 12
Marcia Peltzman, Mother of Maxine Klane	January 12 (Tevet 28)
Morris Friedman, Father of Barry Friedman	January 13 (Tevet 29)
Bernard Carb, Grandfather of Alan Carb	January 13
Miriam Kenner, Friend of Alex Carter	January 13

#### Announced Friday, January 15 (Yartzeits observed January 15 – 21; 2 - 8 Sh'vat)

Asaya Most, Cousin of Morris Umansky	January 15
Anna Greenberg, Grandmother of Eileen Greenberg	January 17
Harry Greenberg, Grandfather of Eileen Greenberg	January 17
Louis Elman, Grandfather of Diane Liff	January 18
Fanny Berman, Grandmother of Lawrence Berman	January 18 (Sh'vat 5)
Fannie Bluma Becker Most, Grandmother of Morris Umansky	January 19
Mordecai Barlas, Grandfather of Judy Barlas	January 20
Norman Wofsy, Father of Noah Wofsy	January 20
Lisa Beth Greenstone, Cousin of Louis Blank	January 21

**Member Yartzeits** (Continued from page 10)**Announced Friday & Saturday, January 22 & 23 (Yartzeits observed January 22 - 28; 9 – 15 Sh'vat)**

Anne Ross, Mother of Rodney Ross	January 22 (Sh'vat 9)
Christopher Meyer, Friend of Alex Carter	January 22
Hortense Lash, "like a Mother" of Devra Floyd	January 22
Anke Eggers, wonderful Friend of Elke Martin & Eva Freund	January 22
Constance Green, Aunt of Tom Sachs	January 22
Stefina Vostrizansky, Mother of David Vos	January 22
Philip Silber, Brother of Susan Silber	January 22
Anne F. Kohn, Mother of Margy Kohn	January 23
Louis Zinnershine, Uncle of Scott Reiter	January 23
Fred Barron, Friend of Ruth Potts	January 24 (Sh'vat 11)
Cynthia Gasthalter, Aunt of Mindy Gasthalter	January 24
Ruth Hochberg, Grandmother of Marlene Cohen	January 25 (Sh'vat 12)
Sarah Friedman, Grandmother of Barry Friedman	January 25
Mabel Hatcher, Mother of Theodore Xakellis	January 25
Henry Leish, Grandfather of Denise Leish	January 26
Eleanor Frishman, Mother of Bruce Frishman	January 26
Amelia Wilkinson, Mother & Mother-in-law of Barbara Becker & Jutta Brettschneider	January 26
Geoffrey Ford, Father of Alex Ford	January 27
Albert M. Potts, Uncle of Ruth Potts	January 27 (Sh'vat 14)
Harvey Wander, Father of Elyse Wander	January 27 (Sh'vat 14)
Scott Greenfield, Cousin of Eryca Kasse	January 28 (Sh'vat 15)

**Announced Friday January 29 (Yartzeits observed , January 29 – February 4; 16 – 22 Sh'vat)**

Eva and Leah Munzer, Sisters of Al Munzer	January 30 (Sh'vat 17)
Rose Bresnick Lev, Aunt of Larry Neff	January 30
Robert Cole, Friend of Joel Berelson	February 1
Alois F. Baer, Grandfather of Ellen Levy	February 2
Lenard Mears, Jr., Member of Bet Mishpacha	February 2
Marian Sotsky, Aunt of Stuart Sotsky	February 2 (Sh'vat 20)
Joseph Budaszewitz, Father of Phil Budashewitz	February 3 (Sh'vat 21)
David Fortinsky, Mother of James Fortinsky	February 3
Adeline Kaplan, Mother of Jocelyn Kaplan	February 3
Rose Gordon, Aunt of Warren Snaider	February 3 (Sh'vat 21)
Esther Chiprut Kahn, Aunt of Beverly Nissenbaum	February 4 (Sh'vat 22)
Walter Hamilton, Friend of Alex Carter	February 4
Peter L. Gingrich, Friend of Larry Neff	February 4

**Announced Friday, February 5 (Yartzeits observed February 5 - 11; 23 – 29 Sh'vat)**

Louise Zanar, Member of Bet Mishpachah	February 6
Eugene Kaplan, Father of Jocelyn Kaplan	February 6
Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, Mother of Miriam Eisenstein	February 6 (Sh'vat 24)
Alex Woldman, Grandfather of Murray Woldman	February 7 (Sh'vat 25)
Jeffrey Sarrin, Member of Bet Mishpacha	February 8
Michael Burbank, Partner of Joel Berelson	February 8
Jeanne Zinnanti, Aunt of Alex Carter	February 9
Leon Goldberg, Father of Barbara Goldberg	February 9 (Sh'vat 27)
Milton Carb, Father of Alan Carb	February 9 (Shevat 27)
Barbara Kupferberg, Aunt of Andi Kasarsky	February 9
Leon Goldberg, Father of Barbara Goldberg	February 9 (Sh'vat 27)
Milton Carb, Father of Alan Carb	February 9 (Shevat 27)
Stanley Lehman, Uncle of Michael Hoffman	February 10 (Sh'vat 28)
Doris L. Taub, Mother of Neela Taub	February 10
Maxwell Joseph Cohen, Father of Keith Cohen	February 10
Stanley Lehman, Uncle of Michael Hoffman	February 10 (Sh'vat 28)
Morris Sachs, Grandfather of Tom Sachs	February 11
Howard W. Bollinger, Uncle of Charles Stewart	February 11



**Member Yartzeits** (Continued from page 11)**Announced Friday and Saturday, February 12 & 13 (Yartzeits observed February 12- 18; 30 Sh'vat – 6 Adar)**

Gene Robert Silber, Father of Susan Silber	February 12
Freida Gottesman, Grandmother of Andi Kasarsky	February 13
David London, Grandfather of Scott Reiter	February 13
Gertrude Umansky, Mother of Morris Umansky	February 13
Minnie Kasse, Grandmother of Eryca Kasse	February 15 (Adar 3)
Rose Rosenfeld, Grandmother of Georgia Korn	February 15
Bella Barlas, Grandmother of Judy Barlas	February 16
Jennie Weber, Grandmother of Denise Leish	February 17
Edna Goldman, Grandmother of Brian Parks	February 17
Irving Klein, Father of Michael Klein	February 17
Frances Roberts, Grandmother of Alan Carb	February 17
Rae Beckenstein, Grandmother of Carol Wayman	February 18

**Announced Friday, February 19 (Yartzeits observed February 19 - 25; 7 – 13 Adar)**

Emilio Gómez, Father of Letitia Gómez	February 19
Daniel Dishon, dear Friend of Yutta Brettschneider	February 20
Cordell Preston Olive, Cousin of Devra Floyd	February 20
Rolf Frischmuth, Cousin of Elke Martin	February 20
Richard Saffer, Uncle of Alicia Saffer	February 20
Ray Umansky, Cousin of Morris Umansky	February 21
Israel Stern, Father of Al Stern	February 22 (Adar 9)
Martin Weinstein, Uncle of Stuart Sotsky	February 22 (Adar 10)
Jerome S. Menaker, Father of Howard Menaker	February 24 (Adar 12)
Victoria Green, Cousin of Tom Sachs	February 24
Alfonso Lorenzo Tarabochia, Father of Catherine Tarabochia	February 24
Fayga Bluma Most Andreadis, Cousin of Morris Umansky	February 24
Sylvia Jacobson, Grandmother of Andrew Abrams	February 24

**Announced Friday and Saturday, February 26 & 27 (Yartzeits observed February 26-28; 14 - 16 Adar)**

Elizabeth Hyman, Mother of Batya Hyman	February 26
Daisy B. Levy, Grandmother of Ellen Levy	February 26
David Snaider, Uncle of Warren Snaider	February 27 (Adar15)
Mel Blanck, Cousin of Louis Blank	February 28
Henry Noretsky, Father of Martin Noretsky	February 28
Norbert Munzer, Cousin of Al Munzer	February 28 (Adar 16)



### Shabbat Services

While the Edlavitch JCC building is closed for the pandemic, all Bet Mishpachah *Shabbat* services will be held virtually by Zoom. Please check our website for details on connecting.

Bet Mishpachah holds *Shabbat* services every **Friday at 8:00 pm**, followed by a virtual *Oneg* Shabbat social hour, **and on the second and fourth Saturday of every month at 10:00 am**. Saturday morning services include a short Torah reading, a lively Torah discussion (in lieu of a sermon) and a virtual *Kiddush* lunch.

**Sign Language interpretation** for Shabbat services is available by sending an email request to [sign@betmish.org](mailto:sign@betmish.org) with a minimum of two weeks notice.

**Any changes to our regular Shabbat service schedule** (e.g., due to inclement weather) will be posted on our website ([www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org)) and will be included in our weekly email broadcast — see next column to subscribe to both.

**To Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush Lunch**, send an email to [oneg@betmish.org](mailto:oneg@betmish.org), with the date you'd like to sponsor and the occasion.

**To Schedule a Bet Mishpachah Event**, email the date, space needs, and number of expected attendees to [administrator@betmish.org](mailto:administrator@betmish.org)

### Bet Mishpachah's Affiliations

Bet Mishpachah is a member of the:

- \* World Congress of GLBT Jews: *Keshet Ga'avah*
- \* Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington
- \* Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington
- \* Network of Independent Jewish Communities and *Havurot*

### Mishpachah Matters Newsletter Staff

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### Donations

To donate to our congregation, please mail your check to Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C. 20013 or donate via PayPal from the "Donations" page on our web site, [www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org)

### Bet Mishpachah Newsletter

Our newsletter, *Mishpachah Matters*, is published bimonthly by Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C., 20013. The newsletter is sent to members, donors, those interested in the congregation, and various Jewish and/or LGBTQ organizations. Articles, columns and content should be submitted by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Email them to [administrator@betmish.org](mailto:administrator@betmish.org)

**For a free electronic subscription**, send an email to [administrator@betmish.org](mailto:administrator@betmish.org)

**To advertise in our newsletter**, contact [administrator@betmish.org](mailto:administrator@betmish.org)

### Weekly Email Broadcast

The congregation also distributes a weekly email blast which contains late-breaking congregational news about upcoming programs, as well as other Jewish and/or LGBTQ news of partner organizations. **To receive our weekly email broadcasts**, send an email to [administrator@betmish.org](mailto:administrator@betmish.org)

### Congregational Website

Be sure to check out our website at [www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org) with information about our congregation's current and upcoming programs, our rabbi, and our history, as well as links to other websites of interest.

**Reprints.** Information in any of our publications may be reprinted without permission, but acknowledgment of the source is required.

**Communications Policy.** For questions about our editorial or advertising policies, send an email to [secretary@betmish.org](mailto:secretary@betmish.org)

### Membership

**To join our Bet Mishpachah family and become a member**, email [MembershipDirector@betmish.org](mailto:MembershipDirector@betmish.org)  
 Reduced membership is available for students, young people, new members, and those who live outside the DC metro area.

### Address, Phone, and Email Updates

Send your name and old and new information to [membershipdirector@betmish.org](mailto:membershipdirector@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 [BikurCholim@betmish.org](mailto:BikurCholim@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](mailto:bereavement@betmish.org).

## DIRECTORY

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Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin ..... rabbi@betmish.org  
 Rabbi Bob Saks, *Emeritus* ..... 301/864-1240 ..... rabbibobs@aol.com

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