

Mishpachah Members' Monthly

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# Mishpachah Members' Monthly

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

Continuing our look back at Bet Mishpachah's history, I present years 1984 – 1987.



**1984:** In **January**, 15 congregants toured *Image and Reality – Jewish Life in TerezinStadt*, an exhibition at the B'nai Brith Klutznick Museum. **March** saw CBM's first *Shabbaton* and \$2,100 was raised at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Auction. In **April**, the board learned that 70% of the membership was made up of men. Shannon Rodes from the *Washington Blade* spoke at Family and Friends Shabbat Service in **May**. Barrett Brick was elected president in **June**. In **August**, CBM toured *Kings and Citizens: The History of Jews in Denmark* at the B'nai Brith Klutznick Museum. In **September**, 40 congregants attended the show, *Torch Song Trilogy*. The rent to CUMC was raised to \$400/month in **December**.

**1985:** In **January**, a Skating Party and a New Members' Party took place. The board agreed to stop passing the *pushke* at Shabbat service in **February**. **March** saw the Purim Party and in **April** a Congregational Passover *Seder*. In **May**, membership dues were raised to \$75/year. Fran Sneider was elected President in **June**. CBM began participating in the monthly Sunday Soviet Jewry Vigil in **October**. In **November**, Family and Friends Shabbat Service took place with Rabbi Mindy Portnoy as guest speaker. And Carol Schwartz, DC Council Member, spoke in **December**.

**1986:** In **January**, *Bikur Cholim* got underway. The Purim Party in **March** attracted 10 Queen Esthers and 200 courtiers including Fabrangens members. **April** saw over 80 congregants celebrate CBM's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In **May**, a *Shabbaton* was held. Steve Liebfreund was elected president in **June**, and our first *Bar Mitzva* took place. **August** saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northeast Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations in Pawling, NY. In **September**, a theater party saw *Hannah Senesh*. In **October**, the board established a Torah Fund for the purchase of a second Torah scroll. In **November**, a Family and Friends Shabbat Service took place.

**1987:** In **January**, Joan E. Biren (JEB) gave a multimedia show *Out of Bounds – A Lesbian Journey*. The congregation's Religious Affairs policies were re-affirmed in **March**. In **April**, 120 people attended the Congregational Passover *Seder*. Steve Liebfreund remained as President at the Annual Meeting in **May** and it was announced that CBM is now the 9<sup>th</sup> largest synagogue in the DC area. In **July**, CBM

began announcing *Yartzeits* at Shabbat Services and a new newsletter format was rolled out. Dues were increased to \$100 in **August**. In **September**, Georgia Korn and Diane Liff became the first adult *B'not Mitzva* at Shabbat Morning Services.

Next month: 1988 – 1991

## President's Message

By Mindy Gasthalter

Last month when I wrote my article, I was watching the snow. This month, I am anxiously awaiting the thermometer to hit 70! What a difference a month makes; and for many, it's not just the weather that has changed. Many in our community are lucky enough to have received one or both Covid vaccines. In the meantime, others, like me, will patiently wait our turn and continue to practice all of the recommended protocols.

You will notice that this newsletter is coming out just one month after the previous. There will now be a newsletter every month. Years ago, we produced a monthly newsletter; then it went to bi-monthly. We've discovered that there is so much information to share that we were having trouble fitting it in to a bi-monthly newsletter. The most timely and relevant information will still be shared by our electronic newsletter, TWAB (This Week and Beyond) that comes out every Wednesday.

March was full of events – those that we hosted and offered and those that were co-sponsored - and we were grateful to have had those opportunities. Purim (which raised more than \$6,000 for the Queen Esther Fund), *Havdala*, the *Rainbow Seder*, the EDCJCC second night *seder*. Three events in early April will be Women's Outreach on Friday, April 2, *Mizmor* Shabbat on Friday, April 9 with Robyn Helzner and Louis Blank, and a talk by Al Munzer on Sunday, April 11 in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. If you are interested in organizing or hosting an event or program, please reach out to Paula Morris at [programmingdirector@betmish.org](mailto:programmingdirector@betmish.org).

We are also looking for volunteers to "scroll" the *siddur* during services. It's not hard to do and helps our congregants and other attendees who don't have their own *siddur* at home to be able to follow along while freeing up the board member on duty for other tasks. If you'd like to scroll, please email [president@betmish.org](mailto:president@betmish.org).

If there is anything that you'd like to share – good or bad – about Bet Mishpachah, I encourage you to reach out to me at [president@betmish.org](mailto:president@betmish.org).

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

## Brunch with Al Munzer in observance of Yom HaShoah— Holocaust Remembrance Day

**Sunday, April 11 at 11:00 am**

Al Munzer was born during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and will share the story of his family during the Holocaust and his rescue by a Dutch-Indonesian family and their Indonesian Muslim nanny. Members of Bet Mishpachah were among the first to hear his story thirty years ago. Since then, Al has shared the story with countless educators, students and law-enforcement officials as a volunteer for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Bring your bagel and coffee and join us virtually as we hear Al's fascinating story. Sponsored by the Education Committee

## How do those Service Leaders know what to do? Can I do it too?

Bet Mishpachah is proud to have many knowledgeable members who volunteer to lead Shabbat services weekly. If you have thought in the past that this is a *mitzva* in which you would like to participate, but weren't sure how, this class is for you! Join Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin for our first class in "How to be a Service Leader," **Thursday, April 8th at 7:30 pm**. This class is intended for beginners and will help you feel more connected to the Bet Mishpachah community.

Questions? Write to Rabbi Jake at [rabbi@betmish.org](mailto:rabbi@betmish.org)

## Purim 2021

On February 25th, Bet Mishpachah along with our friends at GLOE, hosted the Drag Queen Esther Fest, a virtual night of drag performances, games, costumes, and a lively celebration of Purim. Hosted by DC's own drag queen Vagenesis who led the festivities, including a thrilling reading of the Dragillah (the drag version of the *Megilla*), where we were able to raise **over \$6,000** for the Queen Esther Fund, an all-time record!

We are thrilled that the funds raised went to three outstanding local organizations serving the LGBTQ community: Casa Ruby, Wanda Alston House, and SMYAL. These organizations work tirelessly to provide much-needed resources, employment and health services, and housing for LGBTQ youth and individuals experiencing homelessness.

We look forward to making this an annual tradition where we can celebrate Purim while highlighting these important partners in our community!



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## Thinking of membership at 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)



## One More of Rabbi Jake's Spring Classes



There is still one more class remaining for you to join with Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin this spring. The class will be virtual.

**Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 pm:**

Jewish Understandings of the After-

life: There are some religious traditions that clearly state their concept of the Afterlife, but for Jews, it's not 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 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.

## Information and Suggestions for my Caregivers

By Allan Armus

Back in February, I led the *Erev Shabbat* service on *Zayin Adar*, the 7th day of the month of Adar. My *d'rash* that evening was about the significance of that date – it is *Moshe Rabeinu's yartzeit*,- and some of the traditional Jewish funeral practices. This comes easy to me since I am on the boards of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington (JFPC) and the Elesavetgrad Cemetery Association, where I represent Bet Mishpachah's interests. I ended my *d'rash* with these words:

Moses didn't have to plan for his funeral, G-d took care of that for him. But what about you and your families and friends? There are things that you need to share with them before it is too late. Take the time, now, to write down important information; talk to parents, spouses, friends, siblings. Let them know about your wishes and find out about theirs. Make the legal arrangements necessary in today's complex society.

So my closing thought for you is – don't be afraid of death – everybody does it. Living a good life is the hard part.

Back in the olden days of 1996, the Bet Mishpachah Bereavement Support Committee created a document called "Information and Suggestions for my Caregivers." More recently, during one of Rabbi Jake's classes, he presented a

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## Spotlight on: Education Committee

by Jeffrey Kahn

The Education Committee is an active, long-standing committee at Bet Mishpachah. It is currently made of seven members and chaired by Jeff Kahn. The Committee coordinates with the Board of Directors through Paula Morris, the Director of Programming. It is a tradition to hold our meetings over dinner at Bua Thai Restaurant.

We sponsor four classes in the fall and four classes during the winter and spring, all taught by our Rabbi, Jake Singer-Beilin. During the pandemic, our virtual classes on Zoom have proven to be very popular enabling us to attract some new attendees. Sometimes a series of classes have a theme and other times they are independent "pop up" topics. We work very closely with Rabbi Jake, who attends all our meetings, in developing ideas for the class topics. In the past we have also worked closely with Rabbi Bob Saks and Rabbi Laurie Green. Rabbi Jake often suggests topics and other times committee members or congregants suggest them which we discuss and agree upon. In our classes we have explored a breath of topics ranging across the spectrum from racial inequality, medical ethics, finding Torah in folk music, *Bima* basics, and women in the Bible.

We also find speakers for talks following Friday evening Shabbat services, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Sunday brunches, and other free-standing events. Among our recent speakers have been Adam Immerwahr, Artistic Director at Theatre J; Matt Adler, author of "More Than Just Hummus: A Gay Jew Discovers Israel in Arabic;" Lois Roman, Trustee, Memorial Scrolls Trust; Shawn Skelly, Commissioner, National Commission Military, National, and Public Service; Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, a White advisor; and Penny Rosenwasser, author of "Hope Into Practice." We also organize the *Shabbatons*. For the *Shabbaton*, we have a congregational dinner before the Friday night Shabbat service. The speaker gives a short talk after the service and mingles with congregants at the *Oneg*. On Saturday, if the speaker is a rabbi, he or she may take a role in the service; we have lunch and then the speaker gives a longer talk. The *Shabbatons* are a wonderful way for the congregation to come together as a family. Among our scholars-in-residence have been Maggie Anton, author of the *Rashi's Daughters* trilogy; Chai Feldblum, Commissioner, U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission; and our own *hazzan* Rabbi Ben Shalva.

If you are interested in more information about the committee's work, joining us, or have suggestions for class and *Shabbaton* topics or speakers, please contact Jeff Kahn at [educa-tion@betmish.org](mailto:education@betmish.org).





## Happy Birthday Israel— 73 Years Young: An Eyewitness Account

By Liat Novek

*Taken from an article about her father, Joseph Gershon who served in the Haganah in 1948*

In 1948, I was in Jerusalem. I was a member of the underground Jewish military organization called the *Haganah*. In November, 1947, most of the members of the United Nations recommended the establishment of two states, a Jewish one and a Palestinian one.



With my *Haganah* unit, I went to the old city of Jerusalem to protect about 3,000 Jews who lived in the Jewish quarter. We were about 100 men, with only a few rifles and a few hand grenades. One rifle for every ten men, that was all we had. The Palestinian Arabs in the Muslim quarter were much better armed. The British army came in and established military positions between the Jewish and Arab positions. Officially, they were the government, and their obligation was to protect the holy places in the old city of Jerusalem.

On May 14, 1948, the leader of the Jewish people, David Ben-Gurion, declared the establishment of the State of Israel. The British mandate officially ended on May 15, 1948.

By then, seven Arab states had attacked and invaded the new state, and the picture was very grim. The Palestinian Arabs' forces numbered more than 8,000, while we were only 200 strong. A few days into the fighting, 2,000 Jordanians who were well-trained, well-equipped and under British command joined the fighting. After 10 days of fighting, we retreated to the line where the civilian population had found shelter in an underground synagogue, known as the *Hurva Synagogue*. My unit was one of the last to see it, before the Jordanians bombed the *Hurva* on May 27, 1948.

Deeply concerned with saving the lives of these people, we made an agreement to surrender. The Red Cross got involved to make sure the conditions would be honored by the Jordanians. Thirty-six of us were taken as prisoners of war and sent to a camp in the desert near the Jordanian and Iraqi border. I spent the rest of 1948 there. Occasionally, my sisters were able to get through to bring me food and news.

I was ultimately released after an agreement was made between Israel and Jordan for a prisoner exchange in 1949. I went on to fight in the Sinai campaign in 1956 and a few years later, moved to the United States.

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visual of that document. And now we have posted it on our website, with a small band-aid at the end with current contact information.

While there still are a few outdated references in it, the basic function it serves is still valid. It tells those who are dear to you, who will be responsible for dealing with all the practical issues of dealing with your remains, what your wishes/preferences are. It isn't a will or other legal documents, but it tells them where they are or how to find them. It helps them do what you wanted. It also makes you think about what you want.

In this pandemic year, we are reminded, that we never know what our end date will be. Regardless of age, everyone should fill out a document like this and share it with those close to you.

The bereavement support committee can provide advice and assistance in fulfilling your wishes. There is also a plethora of information at [www.Jewish-Funerals.org](http://www.Jewish-Funerals.org), including the contracts with local funeral homes and monument companies that is to you available as members of the JFPC (through Bet Mishpachah.) If you need a cemetery plot in Bet Mishpachah's section of Elesavetgrad Cemetery, you can contact [cemetery@betmish.org](mailto:cemetery@betmish.org).

The committee is, you should excuse the expression, undertaking a revision of the information document, but it's operating on a glacial pace. So don't delay. You can use the current version or any similar document to express your wishes. Share it with your friends and/or family. Ask them to do the same thing and share it with you.

Remember - don't be afraid of death – everybody does it. Living a good life is the hard part.

*Bis a hundert und tzvansig*



# Celebrate!

## Member Birthdays

### April

Hank Londner  
Carol Stern  
Sarah Kolick  
David Schwarz  
Bruce Frishman  
Keith Cohen  
Barbara Goldberg  
Rachel Wolkowitz  
Harvey Stoler  
John Winterson  
Howard Menaker  
Robert Hollis  
Susan Silber  
Jocelyn Kaplan  
Jeff Burka  
Martin Noretsky  
James Radack

## Member Anniversaries

### April

David Vos and Scott Reiter  
Louis Blank and Dan Yost  
Ellen Levy and Joy Savage



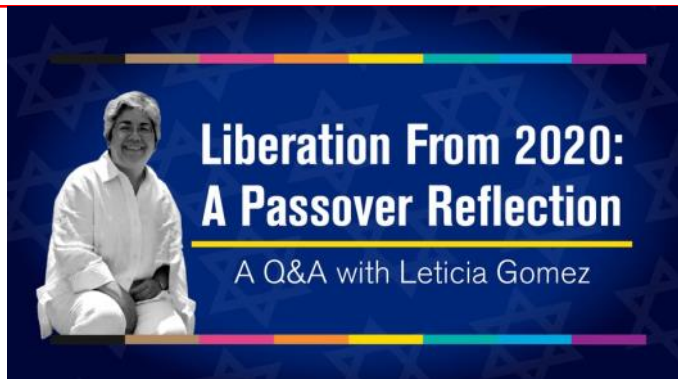
## Thank You to Our March Service Leaders

Friday, March 5: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Rachel Hamberger  
Friday, March 12: Paula Morris and Robyn Helzner  
Saturday, March 13: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
Friday, March 19: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
Friday, March 26: Rachel Wolkowitz & Eryca Kasse  
Saturday, March 27: Jeff Burka and Marc Bernstein



## 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).



## Our Own Leti Gomez featured on the HRC Passover Blog

Leticia Gomez, a queer, Jewish Chicana and a congregant of Bet Mishpachah, says it feels as though we've been in the dark for the past year. As we enter Passover, she reflects on how the pandemic and the vaccine align with the story of Exodus. You can read her comments here:

<https://www.hrc.org/news/liberation-from-2020-a-passover-reflection>

We were thrilled to be joined by Second Gentleman and LGBTQ ally Doug Emhoff at our annual Rainbow Seder where he aligned Passover traditions with the quest for queer liberation from oppression. See his comments here:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/aq0e66kmgztz5vdr/20210320\\_1x1\\_Second\\_Gentleman\\_Doug\\_as\\_Emhoff\\_DTC\\_Rainbow\\_Seder.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/aq0e66kmgztz5vdr/20210320_1x1_Second_Gentleman_Doug_as_Emhoff_DTC_Rainbow_Seder.mp4?dl=0)



## 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 is 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.



**We extend our sincerest sympathy to our members who have experienced recent losses:**

Chantawat (Art) Srisuwan, Brother-in-law of David Fox and Robert Margrave

**Member Yartzeits**

**Announced Friday April 2 (Yartzeits observed April 2 – 8, 20 – 26 Nisan)**

Leon Jackson, Partner in professional dance company of Devra Floyd	April 1
Anat Levy Shmueli, cousin of Michael Singer	April 1
Tom Moffett, Friend of Catherine Tarabochia	April 1
Manuel Less, Father of Martin Less	April 1 (Nisan 19)
Ida Snaider, Mother of Warren Snaider	April 2 (Nisan 20)
Rae Freeman Allman, Grandmother of Beth Cohen	April 2
Rona Riibner, Cousin of Larry Neff	April 2
Corrine Schechter, Mother of Roger Schechter	April 2
Leah M. Potts, Grandmother of Ruth Potts	April 4 (Nisan 22)
Judith Irene Pomper, mother of Joe Pomper	April 4 (Nisan 22)
Stephen Lee, Spouse of David Schwarz	April 4
Edward Roberts, Grandfather of Alan Carb	April 4
Howard Gene Isom, Uncle of Lysandra Brady	April 5
Barbara Kohn Katz, Sister of Margy Kohn	April 6
Bracha Apelberg, Grandmother of Eytan Apelberg	April 7 (Nisan 25)
Chick Gordon, Uncle of Warren Snaider	April 7 (Nisan 25)

**Announced Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10 (Yartzeits observed April 9 – 15; 27 Nisan – 3 Iyar)**

Ann Friedman, Mother of Barry Friedman	April 9 (Nisan 27)
Alan Cohen, Uncle of Beth Cohen	April 9
Simon Gordon, Uncle of Maxine Klane	April 10
Edna Korn, Mother of Georgia Korn	April 10
Shirley Leish, Grandmother of Denise Leish	April 10
Sylvia E. Liff, Mother of Diane Liff	April 10
Martin Cohen, Brother of Keith Cohen	April 10
Betty Grossman, Mother of Richard Grossman	April 11 (Nisan 29)
Rose Mendelson, Grandmother of Barry Friedman	April 13 (Iyar 1)
Fred Weinberg, Father of Steven Weinberg	April 13 (Iyar 1)
Sean Sebastian, Nephew of Denise Leish	April 13
Ronnie Nath, Friend of Louis Blank and Dan Yost	April 13
Rumi Burnett, Mentor and friend of Elke Martin	April 14
Bessie Shapiro, Aunt of Art Leabman	April 14
Lia Horowitz, Mother of Bruce Horowitz	April 14 (Iyar 2)
Doris M. Ward, Sister of Devra Floyd	April 15

**Announced Friday April 16 (Yartzeits observed April 16 – 22; 4 – 10 Iyar)**

Abe Goldberg, Father of Jerald Goldberg	April 16
David Sotsky, Father of Stuart Sotsky	April 16 (Iyar 4)
Lucy Kasmir, Mother of Max Kasmir	April 16
Alfred Salomon, Brother-in-law of Eva Freund and Elke Martin	April 16
Elsie Freund, Mother and Mother-in-law of Eva Freund & Elke Martin	April 17
Selma Cobden, Grandmother of Jeffrey Berns	April 18 (Iyar 6)
Donna Floyd, Cousin of Devra Floyd	April 18
Annie Singer, Grandmother of Michael Singer	April 19
Issac Fox, Grandfather of David Fox	April 19 (Iyar 7)
Fred Rausch, Grandfather of Jeremy Rausch	April 19 (Iyar 7)
Phyllis F. Scheinberg, Friend and colleague of Larry Neff	April 20
Morris Sobel, Grandfather of Carol Stern	April 20
Elizabeth Anne Hubner, Friend of Morris Umansky	April 20
Martha Wolkowitz, Grandmother of Rachel Wolkowitz	April 21
Dolores K. Cohen, Mother of Keith Cohen	April 21
Glenn Neuman Rein, Partner of Morris Levitt	April 21
Miriam Londner, Mother of Hank Londner	April 22
Nikki Felch, Friend of Catherine Tarabochia	April 22
Morris Grossman, Father of Richard Grossman	April 22 (Iyar 10)
Molly Dickson, Aunt of Stuart Sotsky	April 22 (Iyar 10)

**Member Yartzeits** (Continued from page 6)

**Announced Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24 (Yartzeits observed April 23 – 29; 11 – 17 Iyar)**

David Youngman, Uncle of Joel Wind	April 23 (Iyar 11)
Nellie B. Messler, Grandmother of Jon-Charles Smith	April 23
Pauline Karron, Grandmother of David Fox	April 23 (Iyar 12)
Max Klane, Grandfather of Maxine Klane	April 24
Saul Gass, Uncle of Eileen Greenberg	April 25
Manya Gass, Aunt of Eileen Greenberg	April 25
Oscar Sotsky, Uncle of Stuart Sotsky	April 25 (Iyar 13)
Etta J. Kaplan, Grandmother of Ruth Potts	April 26 (Iyar 14)
Alexander Frank, Grandfather of Steven Frank	April 27
Minnie Casel Lev, Grandmother of Larry Neff	April 27
Hugh Hochberg, Grandfather of Marlene Cohen	April 27 (Iyar 15)
Richard Spector, Member Bet Mishpachah and friend of Stuart Sotsky	April 27 (Iyar 15)
Helen Gitelson Neff, Aunt of Larry Neff	April 27
Martin Reiter, Father of Scott Reiter	April 28
Betty Saks, Mother of Rabbi Bob Saks	April 29
Anita Lomberg, Sister of Allan Armus	April 29 (Iyar 17)

**Announced Friday April 30 (Yartzeits observed April 30 – May 6; 18 -24 Iyar)**

Alan Elderberg, Friend for 50 years of Mark Levine	April 30
Ava Sebastian, Sister of Denise Leish	April 30
Channah and Yehoshua Wind, Grandparents of Joel Wind	April 30 (Iyar 18)
Herman Wind, Uncle of Joel Wind	April 30 (Iyar 18)
Helen Weinstein, Aunt of Stuart Sotsky	May 1 (Iyar 19)
Hilda H. Lehman, Maternal Grandmother of Michael Aaron Hoffman	May 1 (Iyar 19)
Jaqueline Kalapinsky, aunt of Alan Carb	May 1
Alan Radack, father of James Radack	May 1
Michael Garcia, Friend of Howard Stark	May 2
Leona Cason, Great aunt of Patricia Carlton	May 4
Thelma Louis Brown, Aunt of LySandra Brady	May 4
Nathan Hyman, Father of Batya Hyman	May 4
Ellen Cenzer, Aunt of Michael Singer	May 4
George Kingsley, Uncle of Seymour Stern	May 6
Joel Woldman, Member of Bet Mishpachah and beloved twin Brother of Murray Woldman	May 6
Thelma K. Menaker, Mother of Howard Menaker	May 6 (Iyar 24)



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).



### 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 or our weekly electronic newsletter, "This Week and Beyond."

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

**To Schedule a Bet Mishpachah Event**, email the date, 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 Membrs' Montly Newsletter Staff

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 Transliteration *Macher* — Scott Reiter  
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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 Members' Monthly*, is published monthly by Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C., 20013. The newsletter is sent to members and posted on our website. 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)

### Weekly Email Broadcast

The congregation also distributes a weekly email blast, This Week and Beyond, 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.

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**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

### RABBIS

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS and COMMITTEES

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Religious Affairs Committee: Mitchell Haymes ..... religiousaffairs@betmish.org

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Strategic Planning Task Force: Deb Hyman

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Jewish Community Relations Council representative: Stuart Sotsky

Director of Congregational Affairs: Bruce Horowitz ..... congregationalaffairsdirector@betmish.org  
Bereavement Support: Rod Ross ..... bereavement@betmish.org  
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Social Justice: James Radack.....social-action@betmish.org

### STAFF

Congregational Administrator: Liat Novek..... administrator@betmish.org  
Congregational Bookkeeper: Elke Martin