

Mishpachah Members' Monthly

The Newsletter of Bet Mishpachah, Founded in
1975 by Members of the Washington, DC,
Gay & Lesbian Community
www.betmish.org

Rabbi's Message

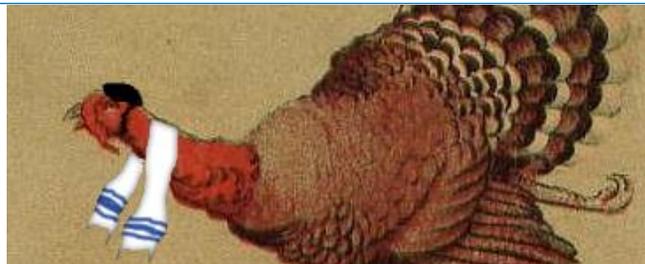
By Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin

I want you to think for a second about Thanksgiving Day. I hope it's not too stress-inducing for those of you who do most of the cooking and hosting to think about this upcoming American holiday. We all have different conceptions about what this holiday means to us, and how it should be. When I ask you to think about it, I'm sure different things come to mind. Some of you may think of the smells put forth by all of the good foods: turkey roasting in the oven, the sweetness of the yams, tart cranberry sauce, and perfectly spiced pumpkin pie. You may think about family and friends, or the Macy's parade. Perhaps you think about that mythical first meal with the Pilgrims and Native Americans, or perhaps you think about the genocide of the Native Americans that came in following years.

As some of you may know, this holiday was established as a national holiday by Abraham Lincoln at the height of the Civil War on October 3, 1863 "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." His proclamation continues as follows: "[they] fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

For me, the most fascinating part of this proclamation is the focus on God. Here I thought that Thanksgiving was a secular American holiday, but instead we see that it is a religiously based holiday instituted by a president who is attempting to unite his people and bring them a day of peace.

What do I as an American Jew make of this proclamation? On one hand, Thanksgiving is a holiday that I cherish as a time to be with family and engage in American culture, and on the other hand it was instituted with religious language by a Christian president and for a Christian majority. The Jewish tradition, I am happy to tell you, is very much in favor of giving thanks to God. The first prayer a Jew says in the morning, in fact the first thing that is supposed to cross a Jew's lips after waking, is *Modeh/Modah ani l'fanecha*, literally "I thank You." This prayer thanks God for returning our souls to us after the long night's sleep. In starting our day by thanking God for life, we are acknowledging that we would not exist were it not for God's compassion...who can help but be thankful for this? Three times a day, our liturgy



includes the second to last blessing in the *Amida: Modim anachnu lach*, We thank You. In this prayer, we thank God once again for life. We also express our gratitude for protection, and for the goodness that God shows us daily. Meister Eckhart, a non-Jewish thinker taught: "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice." While our Jewish liturgy goes beyond this, it does have a clear emphasis on the prayer that arises from saying "thank you."

Judaism is quite comfortable with giving thanks to God, in fact it is a commandment, a *mitzva*, to show thanks on a daily basis! It is exactly because of this that I am uncomfortable with Thanksgiving Day. I am uncomfortable not because it was instituted as a holiday with non-Jewish origins. Nor am I uncomfortable with Thanksgiving because of the calories (they may be the best part!). I am uncomfortable with Thanksgiving Day because it is just that: a day. Judaism teaches us that we are to be thankful continuously, not simply one day a year. It is not enough to sit around your table one night in November and ask your friends and family what they are thankful for. This is a valuable and meaningful ritual, but its infrequency is problematic. Showing our thanks to each other and our thanks to God cannot just be an annual occurrence; it has to be done every month, every day, every hour. In addition to reciting traditional Jewish prayers of thanksgiving, formulate your own words in order to thank the Holy One for what you cherish in life.

When President Lincoln instituted Thanksgiving as a national holiday during that violent time in our nation's history, he was attempting to show the nation that there were still blessings in life; there were still things for which to be thankful. His institution of this one day of thanks was a bold beginning, but it is our job as Jews and as Americans to continue this holiday and to extend it beyond the fourth Thursday in November. I would like to leave you with the words of another great president, John F. Kennedy, who said: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."



Annual Congregational Meeting

We will be holding our annual meeting on **Sunday, December 12th starting at 2:00 pm**. This year we will meet in-person at the EDCJCC as well as virtually. Our new slate of officers for the Board of Directors to be presented is:

President: Mitchell Haymes
 *President Elect: Deb Hyman
 *Immediate Past President: Mindy Gasthalter
 Treasurer: Douglas Auerbach
 Secretary: Whitney Babash
 Religious Affairs Director: Rachel Wolkowitz
 Membership Director: Deb Hyman
 Programming Director: Paula Morris
 Congregational Affairs Director: Bruce Horowitz
 Community Affairs Director: Brian Parks
 Operations Director: TBD

In addition, there are several items to be presented and discussed to be voted upon. We urge all members to attend either in person or on Zoom. Details will be sent at least 30 days before the meeting.

Young Professionals Happy Hour Gathering

Join us for a *nosh* before *Erev* Shabbat services and *Mizmor* Shabbat with Robyn Helzner on **Friday, November 12th** at 6:45 pm. We will meet at Trio, 1537 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20036 and then walk together to the EDCJCC to start Shabbat together at 8:00 pm. Questions? Please contact yp@betmish.org



Veterans Shabbat—November 12th

Veterans Day honors all those who served the country in war or peace and it is a time to thank the living veterans for their sacrifices. The official day of celebration is November 11th, but please mark your calendars for Friday, November 12th when we will honor our veterans at Shabbat services, followed by a virtual reception in their honor. If you are a veteran, please contact Paula at programmingdirector@betmish.org, leave your name and if you are comfortable, which branch of service you served, your rank, or any other information you would like to share. Thank you all for your service.

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We honor our Veterans this month

By Mike Goldstein

November 11, 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

A year after the conflict ceased, in November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of the Armistice, but it wasn't officially recognized as a holiday until 1926, when a joint resolution of Congress invited the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches (no mention of synagogues), or other suitable places (presumably synagogues), with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples. In 1954, Congress changed the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, making it a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Veterans Day, unlike some other national holidays, holds a higher place because it is observed on November 11th, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. And that distinction is fitting as a small, but important, reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans so we may enjoy the life we have.



What you might not realize is that among the countless millions of veterans, nearly one million were Jews, and that the Jewish history of service in what was to become the United States began on August 22, 1654 when Jewish refugee settlers from Recife, Brazil, came to New Amsterdam to escape the Inquisition. Once settled, theirs was a battle to win religious freedom and equal opportunities and obligations. One of those obligations was to serve in the defense force of the city. Rather than allow Jewish service, Governor Peter Stuyvesant had the Jews pay a tax so that others could do it. The settlers petitioned the Dutch East India Trading Company, which directed Gov. Stuyvesant to allow the Jews the opportunity to stand defense.

Over the years leading to America's independence, Jews gained more rights, and with the opportunity for full equality, they went on to serve in the Continental Army and support the revolution financially. The highest-ranking Jewish officer in the American Revolution was Col. David Salisbury Franks, who distinguished himself at the Battle of Saratoga.

With the end of the Revolutionary War and the establishment of nationhood, George Washington affirmed the commitment of the United States to religious freedom in his famous letter to the Jews of Newport in 1790. This commitment of the government sealed commitment of American Jews to this country and Jews have served in every war thereafter. In the Civil War, about 8,500 Jews served on both sides, and three developments arose from the Civil War that were notable for Jews:

1. A Jewish Sergeant, Benjamin Levy of the New York Infantry Volunteers, was one of the very first Americans to receive the newly established Congressional Medal of Honor, and one of eight Jews so decorated.
2. Congress changed Federal law to allow Rabbis to become chaplains. Rabbi Jacob Frankel was commissioned as the first Jewish chaplain. Prior to the Civil War, a person had to be an ordained Christian minister.
3. The establishment of a Jewish veterans group representing Jewish Civil War veterans. That organization, the Hebrew Union Veterans Association was the predecessor organization to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV), which, by the way, has its home not far from here.

Jews served in large numbers in World War I and World War II. In WWI, 250,000 Jews served; 3,500 were killed; 12,000 were wounded; and they received over 1,100 decorations for bravery. In WWII, 550,000 Jews served; 11,000 were killed; 40,000 were wounded; and they received 70,000 combat decorations. Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose, Patton's favorite tank commander, was the highest-ranking U.S. officer killed in action during World War II. WWII saw the inclusion of thousands of Jewish women in the armed forces. They were in all of the branches of the Armed Forces. One of them was Lt. Frances Slinger, was an Army nurse and one of the first nurses to land in France, wading ashore with a hospital platoon.

In Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill has stood monuments to heroic chaplains who have given their lives in time of war. Until 2012, they only honored Christian chaplains and did not include the 14 Jewish chaplains who died in WWII and Vietnam. Thanks to the efforts of the Jewish War Veterans and other organizations, a Jewish Chaplains Monument was dedicated that year. It is only fitting, and builds on the legacy of Rabbi Alexander Goode, one of the legendary Four Chaplains of World War II, who gave up their lives to save other soldiers in the sinking of the *USAT Dorchester*.

Today, Jewish men and women in the military continue the tradition of serving in our country's armed forces. Sixteen American Jews have been awarded the Medal of Honor. If you didn't think so before, it is entirely fitting for you to take pride that American Jews participate equally in considering Veterans Day one of our own. And while it may be a day off for many, we should not forget its purpose. When you attend Shabbat services on November 12th or 13th, you can rise to say the *kaddish* in memory of all American Jews who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



From Our Archives

By Joel Wind, Archivist

Continuing our look back at Bet Mishpachah's history, I present years 2012 – 2015.

2012: In **January**, membership reached 199 and a congregational Values Brunch took place in **February**. In **March**, The House of Ruth was selected as recipient of the Queen Esther Fund. In **April**, Mark Klempner, a Holocaust Rescuer Researcher, was the guest speaker for Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat and in **May**, Rabbi Saks conducted a *Crash Course in Jewish History* class covering Jewish history from its beginnings through the present day. In **June**, Capital Pride took place and in **July**, the Whitman-Walker HIV/AIDS Forum took place. In **August**, Rabbi Saks agreed to temporarily come out of retirement and help us until a new rabbi was engaged; Rabbi Manewith had resigned. **September** saw the dedication of our cemetery. In **October**, a Queer *Shabbaton* took place sponsored by *Nehirim* and GLOE. *Tach'shitim* performed at the Jewish Folk Arts Festival in **November** and Joel Wind was elected President at the annual meeting in **December**.

2013: In **January**, Bet Mishpachah was treated to a curator-led tour of the exhibit *Words Like Sapphires* at the Library of Congress. In **March**, the board selected Rabbi Laurie Green as our Rabbi. In **April**, the Harvey Milk *Chesed* Award was presented to Sue Silber and the Dace stone Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to *Tach'shitim*, the choir. The congregation's Facebook page was created in **June**, and in **July**, we kicked off our annual Drive to Benefit N Street Village. In **August**, Labor on the *Bima* took place. In **September**, High Holy Day services took place and in **October**, Dana Beyer spoke after Shabbat Service. In **November**, we commemorated *Kristallnacht* and Transgender Day of Remembrance. Diane Liff was elected as President at the Annual Meeting in **December**.

2014: **January** saw New Board Installation. In **February**, the board voted to present the Dace Stone Award to Jutta Brettschneider and the Harvey Milk *Chesed* Award to Letitia Gomez and Barbara Lewis. In **March**, The International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission was selected as the international recipient of the Krampf Fund and Pathways to Housing was selected as the Queen Esther Fund recipient. A 20's and 30's Shabbat Service took place in **May**. Diane Liff resigned as President in **June** and Liora Moriel assumed the position of President. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was selected to receive a donation from the Richard Krampf Fund as its domestic recipient in **July**. In **September**, it was decided that the first Friday evening Shabbat service of a month will be Rock N' Scroll with a song leader/guitarist. The contract with the Scottish Rite

Temple for the use of their parking lot for Friday evenings was signed by all parties in **November** and Stuart Sotsky was elected President at the Annual Meeting in **December**.

2015: New Board Installation took place in **January**. In **February**, the board voted to donate to the American Jewish World Service We Believe campaign from the Krampf Fund, to donate to Casa Ruby from the Krampf Fund, and to donate the Purim Queen Esther Fund to the Center Global for support for LGBT people. In **March**, the Liturgy Committee was authorized to move forward to create a new siddur. **April** a film screening of *Triangles: Witnesses of the Holocaust* took place and in **May**, The Dace Stone Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Allan Armus and the Harvey Milk *Chesed* Award to Louis Blank. The Capital Pride Parade and Festival took place in **June** and HHD services took place in **September**. A Holocaust Memorial Museum tour place in **October**, and in **November**, the board voted to present bylaw changes to the membership at the next annual meeting. Stuart Sotsky remained as president in **December**.

Next month: 2016 – 2019

Fall Learning with Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin

Angels, Demons, and More

Angels, demons and more! Rabbi Jake will be teaching a wonderful variety of class topics this fall. These classes are free-standing events. Join us for one or either. It will be announced at a later date whether they will be held virtually via Zoom or in person at the Edlavitch D.C. Jewish Community Center.

Satan and Demons in Jewish Text and Tradition, Saturday, November 12 after services, at 12 pm: Does Judaism proclaim a belief in the Devil? The Adversarial Angel found in the Hebrew Bible later served as the basis for Satan. We will look at those foundational texts and track the evolution of this idea. And what about those dark, demonic forces that pop up in Yiddish literature, *midrash*, and *bubbe-meises*? Let's explore these beings and the stories from our tradition that make us fear and smirk at the same time.

Reading and Discussing "Caste," by Isabel Wilkerson, Wednesday, December 8 at 7:30 pm: As a congregation, we will renew our commitment to work towards a more just society by reading and discussing the book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," by Isabel Wilkerson. She writes: "What some people call racism could be seen as merely one manifestation of the degree to which we have internalized the larger American caste system." We will unpack these ideas together and explore what they may mean for us as Jews and for our community. You are encouraged to read the book ahead of time, but all are welcome to attend whether or not you have done so.

Classes are always free for members of Bet Mishpachah. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for nonmembers. For the Saturday class, please make your contribution before or after Shabbat.

A D'rash from the Past*Vayera*, by Eva Freund

Parshat Vayera contains stories with which most of us are at least somewhat familiar - it contains the stories of Sarah giving birth late in life and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. For those who do not remember the stories-here is the Cliff Notes version.

Three men show up at the entrance to Abraham's tent. Abraham suggests that they hang out for a while so that they can wash their feet, recline under the tree and have some bread to eat before going on their way. One of the three tells Abraham that Sarah will bear a child within the year. Abraham laughs a lot. Sarah, who is well beyond child-bearing age chortles from behind a curtain. God ignores Abraham's laughter and chastises Sarah for hers.

In verses 17-21 God wonders if Abraham should be told about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In verse 22 we read that two of the three guests then head to Sodom. Their mission is to rescue Lot and his family.

There are a number of approaches to reading the text of this *parshat*. In the traditional or *Midrashic* reading - Abraham is in his tent because he is recovering from his circumcision which occurred in the prior *parasha*. This reading exemplifies the performance of two *mitzvot* - visiting the sick and welcoming guests.

While this may be ethically uplifting it is not at all what the *parasha* says. This leads us to the second approach - the *peshat* reading which means "what is the plain meaning of the text?" In the *peshat* reading, based on whether the verb is plural or singular, God is personified as one of the three people in front of Abraham and the other two are angels. Even though the text describes Abraham as preparing food for his guests, I can more easily believe that he is busy giving instructions to Sarah and the servants who are actually doing the work.

While the reading says the angels went to Sodom and Abraham remained standing before the Lord, Rabbi Simon says this is a correction made by the scribes because the original verse 22 states that The Lord remained standing before Abraham. Rabbi Simon also stated that according to tradition there are up to 18 Biblical verses that underwent scribal corrections to remove any possible anthropomorphisms.

Welcoming guests is a prominent feature of both *Vayera* and the *haftara*. They tell of the miracles undertaken by the Prophet Elisha. In both stories, a messenger of God comes to a childless woman (Sarah and the Shunamite woman). Both women are told that they soon will give birth. Both women are skeptical. And ultimately, both give birth to sons.

Both the Torah portion and the *haftara* close with stories of sons who miraculously survive a situation which should have left them dead. Isaac would have been sacrificed by Abraham on top of Mount Moriah had not an angel interceded. The Shunamite boy actually dies but is revived by a prophet and his prayers.

What does this all mean? Does this mean that we each must have an angel as a friend to perform miracles on an "as needed" basis? Does it mean that each of us should be capable of performing miracles... if only we were holy enough....if only we do the right things?

Then there is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah which in the Christian tradition those citizens sinned by engaging in homosexuality or sexual transgression.

However, Judaism says "not so fast" for in this paragraph from Ezekiel (16:49-50), we read:

Behold, this was the sin of your sister, Sodom - arrogance! She and her daughters had their fill of bread and untroubled contentment. Yet, she did not support the poor and the needy. In their haughtiness they committed abominations before Me. That is why I took them away.

Have we become like the people of Sodom who say "what is mine is mine" and "what is yours is mine." Even in this congregation, a microcosm, of the larger community the affluent and the very poor sit and live side-by-side. Many believe they are entitled to keep what is theirs and who do not consider that blaming the poor for being poor has negative impact on the greater society.

I wish I could say which section of the Torah or the *haftara* actually identifies the right tax code or the right welfare policy for our time. Unfortunately, there are no such writings. However, Judaism does have policies that recommend we have an open-hearted and caring society. I can say that the rabbis have warned us against building a society on policies that focus more on property rights than on the obligation to care for each other.

I can also say that when our contemporary politics puts so much emphasis on keeping government hands off the wealthy and so little emphasis on the immorality of allowing people to go hungry, that we have become like the citizens of Sodom. I can also say that when those in power pass laws designed to keep themselves in power rather than passing laws that protect all people in all aspects of their lives, then we have become like the citizens of Sodom.

We have been told to choose life yet are we so arrogant that we think we can choose life for ourselves while choosing death for our society and our planet? Where are the angels with the power to perform the miracle of choosing life for our society and our planet?

We must choose life for ourselves, our society and our planet. And when we all choose this greater life, then the miracle will happen.

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Barry Friedman

Machzor Fund Donations

Phil Budashewitz

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Davi LaBarre

Reggie McBee

Non-members:

Joan Kaufman

Stephen Owen

Rafael Gabriel

Laurie Schneider

Howard Steierman

Lisa Glassman

Siddur Fund Donation—Non-members:

Rafael Gabriel

Rachael Lyle

Howard Steierman

Mark Goldfarb Memorial Fund

Devra Floyd

Richard Krampf Social Action Fund

Ruth Kramer, in honor of and gratitude for
Bet Mishpachah's excellent services and programs,
and my daughter, Erica

Eva Freund & Elke Martin, in honor of High Holy Days
co-chairs Paula Morris and Joe Pomper

Eva Freund & Elke Martin, in honor of Barbara Lewis'
retirement

Operating Fund

Charles Stewart

A.R. Weinstock (non-member)

Joel Berelson, in honor of Leti Gomez's recent
retirement

Kasey Bigsby & Evan Zukerman

Keith Cohen, in memory of his brother, David

Mindy Gasthalter, in memory of David Cohen

Barry Friedman, in honor of his husband, CK Yim
Barry Friedman, in honor of Minister Jay Bacik and his
wife, Diane's recovery from COVID
Barry Friedman, *Sukkot* offering in memory of his
parents and his uncle, Ian Mendelson
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn, in memory of
Jacob Apelberg
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn, in memory of David Cohen
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn, in memory of
Ian Mendelson
Joseph Pomper, in honor of his High Holy Day honor
Tom Sachs, in memory of Helen Schneider

Amazon Smile

Bet Mishpachah is 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.



Do you have a copy of our new *machzor*, *Chadeish Ya-meinu* at home you would like to keep? Perhaps you would like to reflect on some of the wonderful readings during this coming year. It's easy to own a copy. Simply donate through our website We suggest \$54, but of course donate what you are able and you'll be all ready for next year! Contact president@betmish.org. Please note: The recommended donation should not be made through a donor advised fund, including Pay-Pal Giving Fund.



Celebrate!

November Birthdays

Marissa Uchin
 Michael White
 Al Stern
 Martin Robinson
 Larry Neff
 Al Munzer
 Andi Kasarsky
 Don Jewler
 Rachel Hamberger
 Mike Goldstein
 Mindy Gasthalter
 Marlene Cohen
 Alex Carter

Welcome to our Newest Member:

Michael Brophy

Thank you to our October Service Leaders

Friday, October 1: Eryca Kasse
 Friday, October 8: Scott Reiter and Rabbi Ben Shalva
 Saturday, October 9: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
 Friday, October 15: Scott Reiter and Robyn Helzner
 Friday, October 22: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
 Saturday, October 23: Jeff Burka and Marc Bernstein
 Friday, October 29: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin



Thank You to Our November Service Leaders

Friday, November 5: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
 Friday, November 12: Rachel Hamberger & Robyn Helzner
 Saturday, November 13: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
 Friday, November 19: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
 Friday, November 26: Larry Neff
 Saturday, November 27: Ruth Potts and Alex Carter



November Anniversaries

Jocelyn Kaplan and Idalie Adams
 Alex Carter and Ruth Potts
 Craig Ziskin and Roger Schechter

Although we are not eating at services, consider sponsoring an *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush*

Even though we are just starting to see one another again, and many of us are still at home, 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. 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 celebrate 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 2022. Just sign up with administrator@betmish.org. 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

Sponsor
 an Oneg
 or Kiddush Luncheon

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

Stephen Malcom, former member of Bet Mishpachah

Member Yartzeits**Announced Friday, October 29 (Yartzeits observed October 29-November 4; 23-29 Cheshvan)**

Abraham Isaac Armus, Grandfather of Allan Armus	November 1 (Cheshvan 26)
Bill Levin, Father of Janine Levin	November 2
Bernice Winterson, Mother of John Winterson	November 3
Chana Goldberg, Grandmother of Al Stern	November 4
Eliyahu Goldberg, Uncle of Al Stern	November 4
Moshe Goldberg, Grandfather of Al Stern	November 4

Announced Friday, November 5 (Yartzeits observed November 5-11; 1-7 Kislev)

Laura Laster, Friend of Batya Hyman	November 6
Herman Dembo, Grandfather of Jocelyn Kaplan	November 6
Ethel Polikoff, Mother of Nancy Polikoff	November 6
Mina Jean Johnson, Mother of JonRobert Johnson	November 7
Louise Radaack, Mother of James Radaack	November 7
Cynthia Kramer, Mother of Deborah Kramer	November 8
Edith Corenfield, Aunt of Larry Neff	November 8
Pearl Frank, Mother of Steven Frank	November 9
Ryan Heilig, Son-in-law of Alex Ford	November 9
Mauro Cocco, Uncle of Catherine Tarabochia	November 9
Larry Gaber, Brother-in-law of Noah Wofsy	November 11
Jerome Uchin, Grandfather of Marisa Uchin	November 11

Announced Friday & Saturday, November 12 & 13 (Yartzeits observed November 12-18; 8-14 Kislev)

Lenore ("Lenny") Wolf Gnatt, Grandmother of Erica Gloger	November 12
Lillian Sikowitz, Grandmother of Judith Retchin	November 12
Sol Nathan Lev, Uncle of Larry Neff	November 13
Harriett Levitt Mizrachi, Sister of Morris Levitt	November 14
Leslie Feinberg, Historical Figure	November 15
Alfred Helmut Friedmann, Father of Davina Friedmann	November 15
Toba Esther Steinberg Armus, Grandmother of Allan Armus	November 15 (Kislev 11)
Barry McNutt, Husband of Andi Kasarsky	November 16
Fanny Garten, Grandmother of Sarajane Garten	November 16 (Kislev 12)
Juliette Haymes, Mother of Mitchell Haymes	November 17 (Kislev 13)
Gideon Robinson, Grandfather of Martin Robinson	November 17
Sam Schneider, Uncle of Tom Sachs	November 18
Charlotte Agrast, Mother and Mother-in-law of Mark Agrast and David Hollis	November 18

Announced Friday, November 19 (Yartzeits observed November 19-25; 15-21 Kislev)

Ruth Leabman, Aunt of Arthur Leabman	November 19 (Kislev 15)
Diana Lynn Kern Umansky, Sister-in-law of Morris Umansky	November 19 (Kislev 15)
Leroy Aarons, Friend of Stuart Sotsky & member of Bet Mish	November 19 (Kislev 15)
Rose London, Grandmother of Scott Reiter	November 20
David M. Green, President of Bet Mishpachah & Partner of Martin Less	November 20 (Kislev 16)
Halina Wind Preston, Aunt of Joel Wind	November 20 (Kislev 16)
Louis Levine, Father of Mark Levine	November 21
Max Corenfield, Uncle of Larry Neff	November 21

Member Yartzeits—continued

Announced Friday, November 19 (Yartzeits observed November 19-25; 15-21 Kislev)

Fanny Budaszewitz, Mother of Phil Budashewitz	November 21 (Kislev 17)
Robert Strauss, Father of Neal Strauss	November 22
Angelina Gómez, Mother of Letitia Gómez	November 23
Ilene Morris, Friend of Jocelyn Kaplan	November 23
Sylvia Verdin Tarabochia, Mother of Catherine Tarabochia	November 23
Leon Cohen, Father of Marlene Cohen	November 23 (Kislev 19)
Katherine S. Hoffman, Paternal Grandmother of Michael Aaron Hoffman	November 23 (Kislev 19)
Ekaterina Tarabochia, Grandmother of Catherine Tarabochia	November 24
Robert Mannheimer, Father of Barbara Goldberg	November 24 (Kislev 20)
Bernice Peskin, Aunt of Judy Barlas	November 25
Grace Bellucci, Mother of Rene Rodriguez	November 25

Announced Friday & Saturday, November 26 (Yartzeits observed November 26-30; 22-26 Kislev)

Dick Carter, Uncle of Alex Carter and Ruth Potts	November 26
Chet Wood, Dear Friend of John Winterson & Member of Bet Mishpachah	November 26
Irv Beckenstein, Grandfather of Carol Wayman	November 26
Anne Grossman, Maternal Grandmother of Joe Pomper	November 26 (Kislev 22)
Ruth Wind, Mother of Joel Wind	November 26 (Kislev 22)
Morris Weinstein, Grandfather of Michael Singer	November 27
Harvey Milk, Historical Figure	November 27
James Getty, Partner of John Winterson	November 28
Dr. Seymour Pomper, Father of Joe Pomper	November 28 (24 Kislev)
Mickey Lev, Uncle of Larry Neff	November 29
Fern Dobuler, Sister of Andi Kasarsky	November 29
Lillian Kornfeld, Grandmother of Howard Menaker	November 29 (Kislev 25)



Shabbat Services

As we slowly return to in-person services, we are limiting the number of attendees. Please contact administrator@betmish.org if you wish to attend any of our upcoming Shabbat services in person. Bet Mishpachah will continue to stream *Shabbat* services virtually by Zoom. Please check our website for details. The Zoom meeting number will be in 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 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) 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

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 Members' Monthly Newsletter Staff

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 Proofreaders — Mindy Gasthalter, Nathaniel Deutsch and Elke Martin
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 Communications Chair — Mike Goldstein

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

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

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

Congregational Website

Be sure to check out our website at 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

Membership

To join our Bet Mishpachah family and become a member, email 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

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.

Death Notices, Bereavement Services

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

DIRECTORY

RABBIS

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

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Jewish Community Relations Council representative: Stuart Sotsky

Director of Congregational Affairs: Bruce Horowitz congregationalaffairsdirector@betmish.org
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STAFF

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