

Mishpachah Matters

Issue 80.15 and 80.16

Cheshvan/Kislev 5781

November and December 2020

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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)

## Save the Date for our Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 11:00 am**. There is good news and bad news. First, the good news. You don't have to get out of your pajamas to attend because it will be held virtually (<https://zoom.us/j/97700295986>).

Now the bad news, it's still not safe for us to be gathering in person, so we need to hold the meeting virtually. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. There will be reports from the Treasurer, the President, the Rabbi and information from the Strategic Planning Task Force. Can't wait to see you there!

## News from the Nominating Committee

Members of this year's Nominating Committee for the Bet Mishpachah Board of Directors are Barry Friedman (current Board member), Judy Retchin, and David Schwarz (chair). The Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of Board nominees, to be voted on at this year's annual meeting:

**President - Mindy Gasthalter** (for one-year term)

**Programming Director - Paula Morris** (for two-year term)

**Congregational Affairs Director - Bruce Horowitz** (for two-year term)

**VP Administration - Rodney Ross** (for two-year term)

Board members continuing for the second year of their terms are:

VP Religious Affairs - Mitchell Haymes

VP Membership - Deb Hyman

Treasurer - Douglas Auerbach

Community Affairs Director - Brian Parks

Secretary - Erica Gloger

The Nominating Committee is grateful to the nominees and to the continuing Board members for their service to Bet Mishpachah.

## Veterans Shabbat—November 13th

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 11<sup>th</sup>, but please mark your calendars for Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> when we will honor our veterans at Shabbat services, followed by a virtual reception for our veterans. If you are a veteran, please contact Paula at [programmingdirector@betmish.org](mailto: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.



## Spreading Light, Publicizing the Miracle

By Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin

When I lived for a year in Jerusalem, I spent one night of *Chanuka* walking around the religious neighborhood of Nachla'ot. Almost every house and apartment in that area had special *chanukiot* displayed in windows and doorways. I joined a crowd of visitors for a nighttime walk, enjoying the sight of countless candles burning in the dark night. The wavering lights and the shadows they shed were quite magical, and made for a memorable holiday experience. We slowly meandered through the narrow streets, our path lit gently by the olive oil-fed candles. For me, this *Chanuka* walk was a moment of Jewish pride, solidarity, and acknowledging the tremendous miracle of Jewish continuity.

When we light our *Chanuka* candles in December, we will engage in the primary *mitzva* of the holiday: *pirsum hanos* – publicizing the miracle. This *mitzva* usually takes the form of placing a menorah in the window, where it can be seen by passers-by. In this way, the holiday helps us bring light into the darkest time of the year. We quite literally bring light into the darkness.

*Chanuka* is a way that we show the world what it means to be Jewish. While it is true that *Chanuka* is a holiday that has become even more popular in American Judaism due to its proximity to Christmas on the calendar, and our acculturation has influenced the ways in which we celebrate the holiday, *Chanuka* is a holiday that calls on us to proudly identify as Jews. Ever since the Maccabees stood up to the Greek empire for their right to worship in the Temple, *Chanuka* has been a celebration of Jewishness, and the freedom to act, to worship, and to live Jewishly. We publicize the miracle of religious freedom, the miracle that the Jewish people endure and still flourish no matter what the world has thrown at us.

Not only are we called upon to practice the holiday rituals and proudly identify as Jews, we are additionally called upon to tell the whole world about the miracle of *Chanuka*. It is traditional to place the lit *chanukiya* in a

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

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

Join us for our continuing virtual First Friday women's outreach pre-service potluck. 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 will be followed by our uplifting *Erev Shabbat services*. Please join us!

If you have any questions, please email Paula at [morrispa24@gmail.com](mailto:morrispa24@gmail.com).  
Friday, November 6 - Post election discussion and bringing back *Tikkun Olam* to our world.

Friday, December 4—TBD

*\*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:

**November 13**—Rabbi Ben Shalva

**December 11**—Robyn Helzner

Plan to join us for this musical service filled with lots of singing and *ru-ach* (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.



## Washington Jewish Film and Music Festival

**December 3-10, 2020**

For 2020, JxJ presents its first fully digital edition, comprised of 50+ virtual programs including film, music, talkbacks, and more. The 2020 JxJ Festival is presented by the Edlavitch DCJCC, in partnership with the Bender JCC of Greater Washington and the Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia. Several of the offerings include LGBTQ+ themes, including "Butterflies in Berlin" and "Douze Points." Browse the full lineup, buy tickets, and get all access passes

## High Holy Days Donation Drive for N Street Village

Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual donation drive for N Street Village! We generated more than **\$1400** in purchases of everyday items on their Amazon Wish List!

## 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.



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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).

## Spreading Light, Publicizing the Miracle

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doorway or window so that our neighbors can see it and thus learn about the *Chanuka* story. This story tells of a wonderful miracle, and our tradition asks us not to keep that miracle to ourselves. This is not something we do in order to brag, or to rub our neighbors' faces in the miracle. Instead, we publicize the miracle and our Jewish identity in order to proclaim that each person's story, each person's unique relationship with God and tradition should be honored, even when it is different from our own. When we light the candles and place the *chanukiya* in the window, we are proudly telling the world that we are different, that we have a unique and special story to tell. It is an invitation for dialogue and for mutual respect. It helps us celebrate diversity and individual identity, which we should all cherish.

As Jews, we know that it is also our job to spread the *Chanuka* joy and to shed light into the dark corners of the world. As Rabbi Sheryl Lewart wrote, "Lighting the *Chanukah* menorah invites us to ignite the flames of our own souls, to find the spark that cannot be extinguished, the spark that can burn not just for eight days, but for the entire year." It is not enough to give gifts to loved ones and eat a lot of fried food, it is also our sacred task to be generous to those who have less than we do, to make sure that everyone has enough to eat (latkes and otherwise). It is a holiday that is meant to instill within us a sense of generosity and pride, not just for eight nights, but for the entire year. Throughout the eight nights of *Chanuka*, I invite you to find those causes and activities that illuminate your life and your world. Just as the oil lasted much longer than expected in the Temple, so may the light of *Chanuka* stay with us long into the future.

*Chag Urim Sameach* – Wishing you a joyous Festival of Lights!

## Rabbi Jake's Fall Classes



We continue to hold Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin's wonderful classes this fall online. You are welcome to attend one, both, or all.

All classes will be held virtually via Zoom.

Our next pair of classes is, "Women in the Text":

**Lesser-Known Women in Biblical Times** - Saturday November 14, following the *Shabbat morning* service and *Kiddush*: It is no secret that the Hebrew Bible is a collection of patriarchal literature. Male characters abound in the text. Of course, we know about the foremothers and a few other women, but what about the ones who we know little about? Let's explore female characters from biblical times who do not make it into the *siddur* - the misfits, the ones we have forgotten, or never even knew about. They are there; we just need to look for them!

**Women in Rabbinic Literature** - Wednesday December 9, at 7:30 pm: The Talmud and Midrash contain conversations of the rabbis, all of whom were men. However, in a male-dominated text, there are still women's voices to be found and lifted up. These women argued against the rabbinic leaders, destroyed wine barrels, and forged a righteous path, even when doing so was frowned upon. Discover who they were and what we can learn from their stories.

The invitations to attend each class will appear in the weekly newsletter, our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/betmish](http://www.facebook.com/betmish), and our website. Classes are always free for members of Bet Mishpachah. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for non-members.

The **Bet Mish Book Book Group** continues to flourish during the pandemic, meeting via Zoom for lively discussions. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m.** We'll be discussing "Simon and the Oaks" by Marianne Fredriksson, the 2000 bestseller set in Sweden at the outset of World War II. The story is about two boys, one Jewish whose intellectual, bookseller father has moved the family from Berlin to escape the growing Nazi threat, and the other Christian with a distrustful, working-class, shipbuilder father. As both their friendship and the Nazi influence in Sweden grows, they gradually learn that they are better suited to a relationship with the other's father. This was made into a movie in 2014 (available on Amazon and Netflix). As always, all Bet Mishpachah members are welcome to participate. Please contact [bookgroup@betmish.org](mailto:bookgroup@betmish.org) for log in information.



## Al Munzer Honored on Wednesday, November 18, 2020



Bet Mishpachah's Al Munzer will be honored at Theater J's Virtual Benefit November 18th, at 7:00 pm, celebrating Theater J's 30th Anniversary. Al is being honored by Theater J for his service as co-chair of the Theater J Council. If you wish to attend in support of both Al and Theater J, you will also enjoy special appearances from the newly announced inaugural Trish Vradenburg Jewish Play Prize and Patty Abramson Jewish Play Prize winners, Joshua Harmon and Nicole Cox, an exclusive sneak-peek excerpt of Harmon's prize-winning NYC-bound new play, [Prayer for the French Republic](#), and a tribute to the past three decades and the vital role that Theater J has played in our community. For more information and tickets, go to <https://theaterj.org/benefit/>. Please consider attending and show your support for our own Al Munzer.

## Behind the Scenes of the HHD services

By Eva Freund

Once upon a time, in the days of a great pandemic, when people could not gather in person but had to meet via electronic media like Zoom, there was a Congregation whose leadership decided that the High Holy Days should be conducted like a webinar. That meant that all the people who wanted to celebrate together had to sign on with their computer or their cell phone and then they could see the service leaders and the readers, and hear the choir and the *shofar* blowers. The service leaders decided that they wanted to just focus on leading their respective service but not worry about scrolling pages switching their video or sound on and off. Nor could they figure out how to have a choir whose members were not together but sang from disparate locations. Nor could they afford to be interrupted by congregants calling because they were having trouble accessing Zoom. There had to be a solution to all these possible problems so that everybody would end up with a satisfying, beautiful service experience even though circumstances were nothing like the people had known in the past. Maybe someone could be found to handle all the things they did not want to and could not be responsible for...

As I watched the Bet Mishpachah virtual High Holy Day Services I was struck by the intimacy. How was that achieved, I wondered. For others who may have wondered the same thing here is the inside story.

The first step was determining what Service Leaders and the Bet Mishpachah leadership expected from virtual services. This was accomplished through a series of virtual meetings with the main Service Leaders, the Directors of Communication, Religious Affairs, Administration and Community Affairs as well as the High Holy Day Chairs. The main points that became clear were that services should engender a sense of connectedness, and that Service Leaders needed to concentrate on their services without having to also focus on technical details. A Technical Committee was created. They translated these “expectations and wants” into objectives and requirements. The Technical Committee also found a few companies that might just be the right partners in this endeavor. These vendors had a chance to respond to the list of requirements by submitting bids. It was interesting that a few vendors responded they did not feel comfortable doing business with an LGBTQ organization.

The technical committee assessed the bids against the requirements and recommended two vendors to the Board of Directors. The Board identified a first-choice and a second-choice vendor. Zoom calls were initiated with the first-choice vendor in order to gain clarification on items identified in their bid and to ask questions about the cost of schedule overages. At the conclusion of these calls the Board made a decision to sign a contract with the first-choice vendor. The vendor was responsible for specific activities prior to, during, and after the completion of services.

Perhaps the most important thing the vendor would be doing was to schedule Zoom time with each of the Service Leaders, the people presenting *d'rashot*, readers, appealers and *shofar* blowers several days prior to the beginning of the High Holy Days. During this time, the vendor worked with the person to ensure the best lighting, the best location for the person regarding their camera, and to check the adequacy of the sound. Everyone involved felt that this was time well-spent, and that the vendor was extremely helpful. The vendor also worked with our support staff to ensure a smooth registration process, both for members and non-members.

While the vendor was working with participants, the Service Leaders were completing their storyboards – the order of their service, the order of the pages, the persons involved and their order, who should appear on the screen and when. This was a

very important piece of the puzzle because the vendor did not have a familiarity with Jewish services much less High Holy Day Services and certainly did not read Hebrew. In that sense a storyboard is like the stage directions for a play – the first lady enters the stage from the left... delivers her lines facing the audience and exits stage right as the orchestra plays “specific piece.”

At the conclusion of the *Rosh Ha-shana* services the Technical Committee identified a number of areas for improvement and met with the High Holy Day Chairs and the Director of Administration for a full discussion. This way, any necessary adjustments could be made in time for the *Kol Nidrei* and *Yom Kippur* Services. Among the improvements made were the “Welcome...” signs that greeted everyone as they logged on and the photographs of the 2000 and 2020 faces of the Bet Mishpachah choir, *Tach'shitim*.

*Shabbat Shuva* services were not supported by the vendor as these were like our regular Friday night and Saturday morning services. Conducting them ourselves would conserve Bet Mishpachah funds.

The Technical Committee noted a few irregularities such as synching of pages on the screen and faces not appearing when expected and determined that these were due to the speed, or lack thereof, of individual computers when video and audio were turned on/off.

The Technical Committee then prepared its report to the Board including “lessons learned” and examples of its positive experiences working with the vendor. In addition, we are now preparing templates to be used by next year’s Technical Committee. These will include: a form for requirements elicitation, a storyboard template, request for proposal letter, and a letter for potential vendors. This way the work of the Technical Committee will position the Bet Mishpachah leadership well to start working on next year’s High Holy Days should a distant, virtual meeting still be required.

**Toda Raba / many, many thanks to all for our beautiful, meaningful and inspiring High Holy Days services for 5781 / 2020:**



To our own wonderful **Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin** for his inspiring service leading, for his superb *d'rashot*, for his enlightening Yom Kippur study session, and for all the spirituality, warmth and depth he has brought to Bet Mishpachah

To **Rabbi Ben Shalva** for being our terrific *Hazzan* once again — your *nusach* for *N'ila* was especially beautiful this year.

To our **lay leaders** who put so much time and effort into planning and presenting such beautiful services: **Elke Martin, Paula Morris, Larry Neff, Eryca Kasse, Scott Reiter, Allan Armus, Jeff Burka, Vinny Prell, Rachel Hamberger, Alex Carter, and Ruth Potts.**

To our excellent *darshanim/ot* who inspired us so much: **Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin, Keith Cohen, Marc Bernstein, Eva Freund, and Al Munzer.**

To our outstanding *Torah leyners* (chanters): **Rabbi Ben Shalva and Michael Resnick.**

To our *Shofar* sounders and to **Avi Silber** for engineering their recordings and the additional Choir pieces not on their CD from 2000.

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## An Update on Bet Mishpachah

By *Mindy Gasthalter, President*

The weather is changing. Fall is in the air. The days are getting shorter. The mornings are much cooler. The leaves are starting to turn. And on November 1st, we lose an hour as we Fall Back in time. While there is change on the horizon, some things remain the same. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. We are still holding services every Friday night at 8 pm and on the second and fourth Saturday at 10 am via Zoom. We are still unable to meet in person for anything – services, the Rabbi’s classes, our monthly board meetings. We’ve already scheduled our virtual Annual Meeting for Sunday, December 13 at 11:00 am as it is highly unlikely anything will be different between now and then that will allow us to be together.

A quick summary of what’s been happening over the last few months might be helpful.

- ✧ Our Reopening Committee is in place and has had one meeting. They will be determining when, how and under what circumstances we can return to in-person gatherings;
- ✧ We’ve had one request from a congregant for financial assistance;
- ✧ Our membership income far exceeds our budget (by about \$33,000) and dues during our last fiscal year which ended June 30, 2020;
- ✧ High Holy Days donations were about \$7,300 less than what was budgeted;
- ✧ We have eight non-renewing members and nine new members;
- ✧ Service attendance continues to be strong both on Friday nights and Saturday mornings;
- ✧ We held very moving and meaningful High Holy Day services via Zoom webinar and used the draft of our new all-in-one *Machzor*;
- ✧ The Strategic Planning Task Force just wrapped up its “parlor meetings” with nearly 50 members participating and sharing their thoughts for the future direction of the congregation;
- ✧ The Nominating Committee has done an outstanding job of identifying candidates for all open positions;
- ✧ The Social Justice/Social Action committee sent out a survey soliciting your opinion about where to focus our efforts (email [social-action@betmish.org](mailto:social-action@betmish.org) if you have questions or want to get involved); and
- ✧ The Rabbi’s class, which was a discussion of the book “White Fragility” by Robin Diangelo was held following services on Saturday, October 24.

Even though we are unable to operate under “normal” conditions, we are still hard at work, continuing the full operations of the synagogue and forging ahead with our long-range planning. We are always looking for volunteers. If you want to serve in any capacity, on a committee, creating an on-line event (game night, yoga, happy hour, etc.), or aren’t sure exactly what you want to do but want to help,

please contact [programmingdirector@betmish.org](mailto:programmingdirector@betmish.org) or [president@betmish.org](mailto:president@betmish.org). If you were unable to attend any of the parlor meetings, but want to provide input, guidance and direction about the future of Bet Mishpachah, please email [membershipdirector@betmish.org](mailto:membershipdirector@betmish.org).

## Special Speaker for Transgender Day of Remembrance



For our Transgender Day of Remembrance commemoration, following our *Erev Shabbat* service on **Friday evening November 20**, we are happy to welcome from Chicago our virtual guest speaker Ezra Hunter. Ezra is a physician assistant (PA) who works on the gender affirming surgery team at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Ezra’s community-based work in the LGBTQ+ community spans over 15 years, and includes leadership roles with The Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois, Chicago Dyke March Collective, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, and Lambda Legal. Ezra facilitates educational trainings on the topic of LGBTQ+ cultural competency for current and future medical providers. They hold an M.S. in Physician Assistant Practice from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and a MA in Women’s & Gender Studies from DePaul University. Originally from San Diego, California, Ezra currently lives in Chicago, Illinois with their partner Stephanie and their beloved dog Marvin. Please join us for the service and lively talk.

## 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).



Like our facebook page [www.facebook.com/betmish](https://www.facebook.com/betmish)  
Please join our new facebook community group.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/betmish>.

This is a private group where you can have conversations with other members. This is a monitored group.



# Celebrate!

## Member Birthdays

### October

Jerald Goldberg

### November

Alex Carter  
Gordon Cohen  
Mindy Gasthalter  
Mike Goldstein  
Rachel Hamberger  
Donald Jewler  
Andi Kasarsky  
Al Munzer  
Larry Neff  
Martin Robinson  
Alvin Stern  
Marisa Uchin  
Michael White

### December

Allan Armus  
Marc Bernstein  
Alice Cohan  
Andres Doernberg  
Miriam Eisenstein  
Noel Elliott  
Devra Floyd  
Barry Friedman  
Margy Kohn  
Chris Miller  
Henry Morris  
Jeff Nakrin  
Loretta Saks  
Howard Stark  
Liat Novek

## Member Anniversaries

### November

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

### December

Larry Berman and Thomas Milik  
David Fox and Robert Margrave  
Barry Friedman and Chi Keung Yim  
Alicia Saffer and Kris Hatlelid  
Carol Wayman and Elizabeth Carswell

## Welcome to our New Members:

Henry Morris  
Ronni Karambelas  
Avi Silber  
Sheila Levin  
Louis Altarescu  
Lenny Kraisel

## Mazal Tov to

Kasey Bigsby and Evan Zukerman  
on their recent marriage

## Chanuka - The Festival of Lights

This November-December issue of Mishpachah Matters covers the period in the Jewish calendar from the 14<sup>th</sup> of *Cheshvan* through the 16<sup>th</sup> of *Tevet*. There are no holidays in *Cheshvan* a/k/a *Marcheshvan*, ostensibly, in part, to absorb and recover from the experience of the High Holy Days, *Sukkot*, *Sh'mini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* the month before in *Tishri*.

In between *Cheshvan* and *Tevet* comes *Kislev*. *Rosh Chodesh Kislev* starts in the evening of Monday, November 16. The 25<sup>th</sup> of *Kislev* is the first night of *Chanuka*, which this year falls on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Have your *Chanukiyot* (*Menorot*) ready the following night for our *Mizmor Shabbat*, so that we can light them and say the blessings together, albeit via Zoom.

After *Kislev*, comes *Tevet*, *Rosh Chodesh* for which starts at sundown on December 15<sup>th</sup>, which is during *Chanuka*. For the more observant among us, the 10<sup>th</sup> of *Tevet* is from sundown on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> to sundown on the 25<sup>th</sup>, is a minor fast day commemorating the day in 588 BCE when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem. After a long and bitter siege, the walls of Jerusalem were breached and on the 9<sup>th</sup> of *Av* (*Tisha b'Av*) in 586 BCE the First Temple was destroyed, the ruling elite of the Kingdom of Judah were exiled to Babylonia, and Judah was reduced from an independent kingdom to a mere province under the control of the Babylonian Empire. (Some scholars give these dates as 589 and 587 BCE.)

The Cyrus Cylinder, ca. 539-538 BCE, records in cuneiform writing that Cyrus the Great allowed the repatriation of captured peoples and the rebuilding of their temples. The text has traditionally been seen by biblical scholars as corroborating references in the Hebrew Bible to the return from the Babylonian Captivity. The Cylinder was discovered in Babylon in 1879 and is on display in the British Museum in London. In early 2013, it was exhibited at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

Happy *Chanuka* to all of you—enjoy the Festival of Lights! Join us on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at Shabbat services when we light our *Chanuka Menoras* together.





# Thank You!

## Thank You to Our September and October Service Leaders

Friday, September 4: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
 Friday, September 11: Larry Neff  
 Saturday, September 12: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
 Friday, September 18: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin & Elke Martin  
 Saturday, September 19: Paula Morris & Larry Neff  
 Friday, September 25: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
 Saturday, September 26: Paula Morris & Elke Martin  
 Friday, October 2: Paula Morris  
 Friday, October 9: Larry Neff  
 Saturday, October 10: Scott Reiter  
 Friday, October 16: Allan Armus  
 Friday, October 23: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
 Saturday, October 24: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
 Friday, October 30: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin

## 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**



## **Toda Raba**

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To our beloved Choir, **Tach'shitim - Deb Hyman, Whitney Babash, Rachel Hamberger, Brian Parks, Michael Resnick**. Special thanks to 2020 soloists **Deb Hyman** (*Kol Nidrei*) and **Deb Montanino** (*Kiddush*). — your recordings from the 2000 CD sounded terrific, but we miss hearing you all together in person. **Tach'shitim 2000: Eileen Greenberg, Deb Hyman, Sue Lanser, Michael Resnick, Carl Spatz, David Steinhorn, Joel Ginsberg**. And to our Choir Director of many, many years **Michael Resnick**, who also led the melody he composed for our unique *Ahavnu* prayer.

To our superb cellist **John Kaboff**.

To **Allan Armus** and **Elke Martin** for a moving *Yizkor* service and to Allan for the beautiful *Yizkor* booklet.

To **James Radack, Rachel Wolkowitz, Joe Pomper** and **Diane Liff** for their moving membership appeals and to **Jocelyn Kaplan**, our appeals wrangler once again.

To all our **honorees** for English readings, *aliyot*, *haftara* belssings, etc.

To our indefatigable HHD co-chairs: **Paula Morris, Rachel Hamberger**, and **Scott Reiter**, who had an especially challenging job this year and were outstanding.

Special thanks to **Scott Reiter** for compiling our amazing new *Machzor* almost single-handedly.

To our Director of Administration **Barry Friedman** and to his Technical Committee, with **Eva Freund, Barbara Goldberg, Brian Parks, Michael Goldstein** and **Mitchell Haymes**

To our outstanding Administrator **Liat Novek** for the **HHD Supplement** and for all her dedicated help and support, and to our Communications Chair **Mike Goldstein** and everyone else who helped with **HHD Logistics, tickets** and **publicity**.

To the team who prepared and mailed out the **HHD gift boxes**, **Deb Hyman, Douglas Auerbach, Liat Novek, Mindy Gasthalter, Janine Levin**, and **Paula Morris** and to **Morris Umansky** for underwriting the cost.

To **Paula Morris** for assigning honors and readings and to all our **Gabbaim/ot** who helped ensure our services ran smoothly: **Mike Goldstein, Mindy Gasthalter, Elyse Wander, Jeff Kahn, Paula Morris** and **Rachel Hamberger**.

To our superb **tech support company, AJI**, for doing a wonderful job and being so easy to work with and were so professional.

**To all others who helped in so many ways to present all our HHD services.**

## 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).

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Devra Floyd  
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Barry Friedman in honor of his husband, CK  
Sarajane Garten & Catherine Tarabochia in memory of Frances Garten  
Mindy Gasthalter in honor of Michael Resnick and Ruth Eisenberg, recipients of our 2020 service awards  
Mindy Gasthalter in memory of Richard Taub  
Mindy Gasthalter in memory of Selda Berns  
Mindy Gasthalter in honor of Evan Zukerman & Kasey Bigsby's marriage  
Mitchell Haymes  
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn in memory of Benjamin Korn  
James Radack  
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Elke Martin & Eva Freund	Noah Wofsy
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Seymour Stern	
Steven Weinberg	



# November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 6:30 pm <b>Women's Outreach Potluck</b> (see page 2) 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Paula Morris	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Veterans Shabbat</b> (see page 1) <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	14 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin (see page 3)
15	16	17	18	19 6:45 pm Board of Directors Meeting	20 <b>Transgender Day of Remembrance</b> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin with speaker Ezra Hunter (see page 5)	21
22 Everything but the Turkey at EDCJCC	23	24	25	26 <b>Thanksgiving</b>	27 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Louis Blank	28 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Jeff Burka with Torah discussion by Marc Bernstein
29	30			Visit <a href="http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/">http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/</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>	Bet Mishpachah follows the Triennial reading cycle—this year is Year 1 of the 3-year cycle

## December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>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.</p>	<p>1 While the EDC JCC is closed, Bet Mish will hold services, classes and Women's Outreach via Zoom.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6:30 pm Women's Outreach Potluck (see page 2 for details) 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>6 Bet Mishpachah Book Club 4:00 pm (see page 3)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 7:30 pm—Rabbi Jake's class (see page 3)</p>	<p>10 <i>1st Chanuka candle</i></p>	<p>11 <i>2nd Chanuka candle Mizmor Shabbat</i> 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Larry Neff and Robyn Helzner</p>	<p>12 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin <i>3rd Hanuka candle</i></p>
<p>13 <i>4th Chanuka candle</i> 11:00 am—annual meeting (see page 1)</p>	<p>14 <i>5th Chanuka candle</i></p>	<p>15 <i>6th Chanuka candle</i> Virtual Chanuka gathering 7:00 pm</p>	<p>16 <i>7th Chanuka candle</i></p>	<p>17 <i>8th Chanuka candle</i> 6:45 pm Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p>18 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 8:00 pm <b>Erev Shabbat Service</b> led by Alex Carter and Ruth Potts</p>	<p>26 10:00 am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b></p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

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

Selda Berns (*Sora Feiga Mayim*), mother of Jeff Berns

**Member Yartzeits**

**Announced Friday, October 30 (Yartzeits observed October 30 – November 5, 12 – 18 Cheshvan)**

Jaime Gómez, Brother of Letitia Gómez	October 30
Dorothy Levy, Mother of Ellen Levy	October 30
Mildred Backelman, Mother of Cookie Backelman	October 30
Janet Kelly, Mother-in-law of Marisa Uchin	October 30
Beverly Jacobson Abrams, Mother of Andrew Abrams	October 31
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
Edward Ross, Father of Rodney Ross	November 5 (Cheshvan 18)

**Announced Friday, November 6 (Yartzeits observed November 6 – 12, Cheshvan 19 - 25)**

Bernard Thomas Resnick, Father of Michael Resnick	November 6 (Cheshvan 19)
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
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
Adeline Celia Greenberg Bloom, Mother of Eileen Greenberg	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 13 & 14 (Yartzeits observed November 13 - 19, 26 Cheshvan – 3 Kislev)**

Lillian Sikowitz, Grandmother of Judith Retchin	November 12
Paula Levin, Friend of Ruth Potts	November 12 (Cheshvan 25)
Abraham Isaac Armus, Grandfather of Allan Armus	November 13 (Cheshvan 26)
Sol Nathan Lev, Uncle of Larry Neff	November 13
Gideon Robinson, Grandfather of Martin Robinson	November 17
Sol Seidman, Uncle of Lawrence Berman	November 15 (Cheshvan 28)
Leslie Feinberg, Historical Figure	November 15
Alfred Helmut Friedmann, Father of Davina	November 15
Rita Gordon, Aunt of Eileen Greenberg	November 16
Barry McNutt, Husband of Andi Kasarsky	November 16
Sidney Kasmir, Father of Max Kasmir	November 18
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 20 (Yartzeits observed November 20 – 26; 4-10 Kislev)**

Mary Parker, Aunt of Betty Milgram	November 20
Rose London, Grandmother of Scott Reiter	November 20
Louis Levine, Father of Mark Levine	November 21
Max Corenfield, Uncle of Larry Neff	November 21
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
Ekaterina Tarabochia, Grandmother of Catherine Tarabochia	November 24
Bernice Peskin, Aunt of Judy Barlas	November 25
Eva Silberstein, Grandmother of Eileen Greenberg	November 25
Grace Bellucci, Mother of Rene Rodriguez	November 25

**Member Yartzeits** (Continued from page 11)**Announced Friday, November 20 (Yartzeits observed November 20 – 26; 4-10 Kislev)**

Dick Carter, Uncle of Alex Carter and Ruth Potts	November 26
Chet Wood, Dear Friend of John Winterson	November 26
Irv Beckenstein, Grandfather of Carol Wayman	November 26

**Announced Friday & Saturday, November 27 & 28 (Yartzeits observed November 27 – December 3; 11 – 17 Kislev)**

Morris Weinstein, Grandfather of Michael Singer	November 27
Harvey Milk, Historical Figure	November 27
Toba Esther Steinberg Armus, Grandmother of Allan Armus	November 27 (Kislev 11)
Fanny Garten, Grandmother of Sarajane Garten	November 28 (Kislev 12)
James Getty, Partner of John Winterson	November 28
Mickey Lev, Uncle of Larry Neff	November 29
Fern Dobuler, Sister of Andi Kasarsky	November 29
Harry Berman, Grandfather of Lawrence Berman	November 30 (Kislev 14)
David Birkland, Friend of Tom Sachs	December 1
Ruth Leabman, Aunt of Arthur Leabman	December 1 (Kislev 15)
Diana Lynn Kern Umansky, Sister-in-law of Morris Umansky	December 1 (Kislev 15)
Leroy Aarons, Friend of Stuart Sotsky	December 1 (Kislev 15)
David M. Green, Partner of Martin Less	December 2 (Kislev 16)
Halina Wind Preston, Aunt of Joel Wind	December 2 (Kislev 16)
Bertram Allman, Grandfather of Beth Cohen	December 2
Joe Leggold, Teacher and Friend of Alex Carter	December 3
Fanny Budaszewitz, Mother of Phil Budashewitz	December 3 (Kislev 17)
Harry Neff, Grandfather of Larry Neff	December 3

**Announced Friday, December 4 (Yartzeits observed December 4 - 10, 18 – 24 Kislev)**

Robey Murray, Father of Elaine Murray	December 4
Irwin Cohen, Father of Beth Cohen	December 4
Robert Weis, Friend of Ruth Potts	December 4
Mark Hyman, Brother of Deb Hyman	December 4
Leon Cohen, Father of Marlene Cohen	December 5 (Kislev 19)
Katherine S. Hoffman, Paternal Grandmother of Michael Aaron Hoffman	December 5 (Kislev 19)
Stanley David Resnick, Uncle of Michael Resnick	December 6 (Kislev 20)
Alice Resnick, Aunt of Michael Resnick	December 6 (Kislev 20)
Robert Mannheimer, Father of Barbara Goldberg	December 6 (Kislev 20)
Ben Wilfred Liff, Father of Diane Liff	December 6
Libby Silber Sneider, Mother of Fran Sneider	December 6
Sol Gnatt, Grandfather of Erica Gloger	December 7
Leona Cross, Mother of Belinda Cross	December 7
Ruth Leabman, Aunt of Art Leabman	December 7
Rose Gasthalter, Grandmother of Mindy Gasthalter	December 8
Anne Grossman, Maternal Grandmother of Joe Pomper	December 8 (Kislev 22)
Ruth Wind, Mother of Joel Wind	December 8 (Kislev 22)
Tilly Martin, Mother and Mother-in-Law of Elke Martin and Eva Freund	December 9

**Announced Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12 (Yartzeits observed December 11- 17, 25 Kislev – 2 Tevet)**

Will Booker, Member of Bet Mishpachah	December 10
Lillian Kornfeld, Grandmother of Howard Menaker	December 11 (Kislev 25)
Edith Cohen, Grandmother of Keith Cohen	December 12
Isaac Sheinbein, Father of Israel Sheinbein	December 12
Seymour Kingsley, Grandfather of Seymour Stern	December 12
Elizabeth Nissenbaum, Grandmother of Beverly Nissenbaum	December 13 (Kislev 27)
Norma Passy, Aunt and Godmother of Barry Friedman	December 13 (Kislev 27)
James Bjorkman, Friend of Ted Xakellis	December 13
Stanley Allen Abrams, Father of Andrew Abrams	December 13
Harry Friedman, Grandfather of Barry Friedman	December 14 (Kislev 28)
Helen Kropf, Mother of Barry Kropf	December 14 (Kislev 28)
Ted Goldfarb, Father-in-law of Allan Armus	December 16
Solomon Weissman, Grandfather of Jeffrey Kahn	December 16
Dr. David Lasky, Beloved Friend of Stuart Sotsky	December 17 (Tevet 2)
Marion Randolph Panell, Step-father of Charles Stewart	December 17

**Member Yartzeits** (Continued from page 12)**Announced Friday, December 18 (Yartzeits observed December 18 - 24, 3 – 9 Tevet)**

Leo Dickson, Uncle of Stuart Sotsky	December 18 (Tevet 3)
Bill Lemen, Partner of Tom Sachs	December 18
Edward Singer, Father of Michael Singer	December 18
Gitl Krakofsky, Great-aunt of Judy Barlas	December 19
Joachim Martin, Father & Father-in-law of Elke Martin & Eva Freund	December 19
Wilhelm Martin, Grandfather of Elke Martin	December 19
Aba Adams, Niece of Larry Neff	December 19
Lilian Jaco, Grandmother of Tom Sachs	December 21
Ida Tortorello, Aunt of Morris Umansky	December 21
Ida Eneman, Grandmother of Jeffrey Berns	December 21 (Tevet 6)
Louise Lehmann Burka, Grandmother of Jeff Burka	December 22 (Tevet 7)
Louis L. Kaplan, Grandfather of Ruth Potts	December 22 (Tevet 7)
Samuel Frishman, Father of Bruce Frishman	December 22
Eva Weinschelbaun, Grandmother of Eryca Kasse	December 23 (Tevet 8)
Jeffrey Stark, Brother of Howard Stark	December 23

**Announced Friday & Saturday, December 25 & 26 (Yartzeits observed December 25 – 31; 10 – 16 Tevet)**

Rabbi Daniel Kaplan, Uncle of Ruth Potts	December 25 (Tevet 10)
Barbara Auerbach, Mother of Douglas Auerbach	December 26
Abraham Cohen, Grandfather of Marc Bernstein	December 26 (Tevet 11)
Ruth Isaacs, Grandmother of Sarajane Garten	December 26 (Tevet 11)
Martha Francis, Aunt of Barbara Goldberg	December 26 (Tevet 11)
Isaac Potts, Grandfather of Ruth Potts	December 26 (Tevet 11)
Goldie Chiprut Nissenbaum, Mother of Beverly Nissenbaum	December 27 (Tevet)
Bernard Myers, Member of Bet Mishpachah	December 27
Sherwood Kahn, Father of Jeffrey Kahn	December 28
Rev. Samuel Mendelson, Grandfather of Barry Friedman	December 28 (Tevet 13)
Lawrence Jay Beck, Uncle of Michael Resnick	December 28 (Tevet 13)
Jack Stoler, Father of Harvey Stoler	December 29 (Tevet 14)
Goldie Lev Neff, Mother of Larry Neff	December 29
Frank Shelton, Uncle of Barry Friedman	December 29
Shirley Esquith, Friend of Morris Umansky	December 31
Mark Goldfarb, Partner of Allan Armus	December 31 (Tevet 16)
Edythe Rothlein Pollack, Grandmother of Jeff Burka	December 31 (Tevet 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*

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### Donations

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### 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.

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### 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).

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 Rabbi Bob Saks, *Emeritus* ..... 301/864-1240 ..... rabbibobs@aol.com

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