

High Holy Days 2020



We are writing in the midst of what we know to be challenging times. Unprecedented. But we want to assure you that we are looking ahead to our congregation's most precious time of the year,

the High Holy Days, with the intent of creating the most meaningful and spiritually fulfilling services as are possible now. Certainly, we are aware of the need, and we are looking forward to coming through as a holy community together.

Looking forward to the Hebrew month of *Elul*, we want you to know that at its recent board meeting (subject to the announcement that was expected from Mayor Bowser on May 29 about reopening DC), the Board along with the Rabbi, decided to hold High Holy Day services virtually. Nothing in the Mayor's plans, or in the ongoing reality of the pandemic, supports a change in that decision. The Board decided to make the decision now so that we can start planning accordingly.

While this is not the outcome that anyone had hoped for, nothing could have prepared us for this. But as a congregation and community experienced with plagues (HIV), taking care of each other and looking at the world around us, the Board felt that we could not safely be together without potentially risking the health of our service leaders, congregants and staff. Other congregations, such as CBST in NY and Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, have already made the same cautious decision to hold the High Holy Days virtually.

Though we had hoped the tides would turn, it seems impossible to consider meeting safely in person as we've done for more than 45 years. Our community is large and strong, and last year at Friends Meeting House it was wonderful, warm, and filled with *ruach*. We had hoped to repeat that experience this year. But, because we are realistic, it will not be possible this year. Therefore, all High Holy Day services from *S'lichot* to *Yom Kippur*, will be held virtually. All of our usual service leaders will be on the *bima*, including Rabbi Jake and Rabbi Ben Shalva, our *Hazzan*. Our first priority is the safety of everyone involved.

We have a few people who are willing to help work on improving the technical aspects of our services. If you would like to help with that project, or work behind the scenes during services, please reach out to Barry Friedman, administrationdirector@betmish.org.

Lessons From Parenthood, Pandemic, and Protest

By Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin



This is an odd moment in history to become a parent for the first time. Looking back at the first couple of months as a father, I realize the lessons that I have learned. These lessons are enhanced and different than they may have otherwise been because of COVID-19. I never imagined that I would be as physically isolated as I am when I became a parent, but this new reality has brought some unforeseen joys and educative moments.

Virtual Love and Support - I find myself relying on technology for the sake of connection. Avital's grandparents have not been able to meet her in person, neither have most of my closest friends. However, they know what she looks like, what her cries sound like, and they have tracked her growth and development because of the very same technologies that are allowing us to hold our Bet Mish Shabbat services and get-togethers. In this isolating time, I find connection and encouragement from others who have raised a child and can offer the blessing of advice and reassuring words - and that comes virtually over the computer screen. Though we are physically far away from one another, we can still maintain the closeness of our relationships. Rachel and I were so touched to see many loved ones attend Avital's naming ceremony. When we most wanted to be surrounded by our people, our communities logged on and showed up for us. There is a special joy in knowing that Avital was joined by a large number of people who would not have been able to attend if the ceremony was not held over video chat.

(continued on page 3)

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. Of course, the logistics of getting the *Siddurim* out to congregants may be a little more difficult in light of Coronavirus, but if you are interested, email president@betmish.org. If more people had their own *Siddur* during this time while we are leading virtual services, rather than having the text on the screen, we could focus on the service leader while folks follow along at home.

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.

Friday, July 3—Let's check in with one another. Send in some ideas to discuss

Friday, August 7 - to be determined

Look for other virtual women's events popping up in July and August

**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 through the summer! Robyn Helzner and Rabbi Ben Shalva will lead singing with their guitars at *Mizmor Shabbat* musical services at 8:00 PM on:

July 10 and August 14

Plan to join us for these special musical services 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.



Nominating Committee

Each year around this time, the Board looks for three volunteers for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee's job is to find volunteers to fill the open positions that will be vacant in the upcoming board year. This year, we are seeking volunteers to fill four positions; President (Mindy Gasthalter is finishing the second year of David Schwarz's two year term); Administration Director (Barry Friedman is finishing the second year of Jessie's two year term); Programming Director (Paula Morris is finishing the second year of Evan Brettell's two year term); and Director of Congregational Affairs (which was held by Bruce Horowitz for the last two years).

The Nominating Committee should have the new slate of officers selected by October so that the congregation can be notified in the mailing that goes out in November with information for our annual meeting.

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile was created by Amazon as a way for those who shop on Amazon (and who doesn't – especially now) to give to their favorite charity. Bet Mishpachah is now enrolled in Amazon Smile, then 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 you can have 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



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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 today.

Questions, e-mail membershipdirector@betmish.org.

What's This?

Scan it with a QR code reader on your smartphone and find out!

Web: www.betmish.org

Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/BetMishpachah>

Twitter: twitter.com/betmish

E-mail: office@betmish.org



Lessons From Parenthood, Pandemic, and Protest (continued from page 1)

Putting Myself Second - Of course, I knew that my priorities would change dramatically when I had my first child. Everyone told me they would. As expected, this new role has forced me to put some of my own desires second to my daughter's. For example, I get out of bed early in the morning when my entire body tells me to do otherwise because she needs nourishment and care. It strikes me that in many ways, all of us are doing this to some extent because of the pandemic. We wear an uncomfortable mask when out for a walk because our desire for comfort takes a back seat to our need for health and the needs of others who may be more at risk. We postpone communal events in order to ensure that we do not help this insidious virus find yet another host. *Pikuach nefesh*, the Jewish value of saving a life, takes precedence over everything else, even when doing so is annoying or frustrating. It is a humbling experience, and can be difficult to enact.

Appreciation for Parental Leave - As I look ahead at taking the majority of my parental leave this summer, I find myself incredibly grateful for the ability to do so. I am lucky to be part of a community that enacts this value and supports me as a whole person - both in my role as rabbi and my role as father. I also know that many in our country do not have the ability to take paid time off of work in order to attend to the needs of their family members. People all-too-often need to choose between taking unpaid time off or paying for child care, neither of which they can afford. Washington D.C. is ahead of many states in this regard, but the majority of our country has a long way to go in order to support people in their role as parent as well as their professional role. Parental leave leads to the healthy development of children and pushes us in the direction gender equality, which are indeed worth fighting for.

Opportunities to Engage in Jewish Rituals - Even in a household with two rabbis, we did not always engage in every Jewish ritual at home. This time in our small apartment together with our new daughter has given us the opportunity and reasons to recite the Shabbat blessings every week, to usher Shabbat out with a *havdala* ceremony, to sing the bedtime *Sh'ma*. We have taken to baking our own *challah*, and cooking Shabbat dinner that in the past may have been leftovers or a quick bite while running out the door. One does not need an infant or a pandemic in order to do these rituals, but I have found that those two life events have pushed me in the direction of doing more Jewishly. Time has slowed down, so I tune up my guitar, pour wine in the *kiddush* cup, and sing.

As we move through this strange summer and into a High Holyday season unlike one we have seen previously, I hope that these lessons will continue to inform my actions and outlook. What lessons have you gained from this moment in your personal history? How have the recent events in our city and country informed your own actions?

Our Czech Torah Scroll: A Conversation with Lois Roman on July 1st

Were you one of the members of Bet Mishpachah who was instrumental in our acquiring a Czech Torah scroll or did you not even know the origin of one of our two scrolls? Please join us with Lois Roman, a Trustee of the Memorial Scrolls Trust who serves as the U.S. Representative, for a conversation on July 1, at 7:30 PM. The Memorial Scrolls Trust is a London based non-profit which oversees the legacy of 1,564 Czech Torah scrolls that survived the Shoah.

We will not only hear about the miraculous story of these scrolls but also learn the history of our own scroll. These scrolls arrived in London and were dispersed on permanent loan to caring communities around the world. A series of miracles allowed this huge hoard of Czech Torah scrolls to survive the devastation of the Shoah and stand as a testament to the communities that perished. The Memorial Scrolls Trust is committed to maintaining the legacy of these scrolls by dispersing 1400 of them around the world on permanent loan from their collection.

Lois began her involvement with Memorial Scrolls Trust several years ago following a long career on Wall Street as a money manager. She has a degree from Brandeis University and an MBA from Columbia Business School. Please check our weekly newsletter for Zoom meeting information.



Bet Mishpachah Book Club—July 30

The Bet Mishpachah Book Group continues to meet virtually. Although we miss our wonderful pot luck suppers, we have continued our lively book discussions on Zoom, alternating fiction and non-fiction selections. At our next meeting on July 30 at 7:00 pm, we'll be discussing The Liar by Israeli writer Ayelet Gundar-Goshen. This is a multi-layered story of an Israeli teenager, a TV talent show winner, and an elderly Moroccan-Israeli woman who get tangled in a web of lies. It is a fable of the complexities of the Me-Too era and the lure of lies and fame. Written with propulsive energy, dark humor, and deep insight, The Liar reveals the far-reaching consequences of even our smallest choices, and explores the hidden corners of human nature to reveal the liar and the truth-teller in all of us. Ms. Gundar-Goshen is a clinical psychologist, has worked for the Israeli civil rights movement, and is an award-winning screenwriter. All Bet Mish members are welcome to join discussions. For Zoom details, please

email bookgroup@betmish.org.

President's message: Summer of 2020 – A Summer to Remember

By *Mindy Gasthalter, President*

I am starting to sound like a broken record – Corona-virus, COVID-19, pandemic, shut down. As we all know, this continues but with spots of brightness on the horizon. DC is now in Phase I (as of Friday, May 29, 2020) of Phase IV (no restrictions) so we are making progress, but we have many more milestones to achieve before we can return to “normal.” And I have a feeling that “normal” will not be what we were used to, but a “new normal.”

Services continue every Friday at 8 pm and on the second and fourth Saturday at 10 am via Zoom and Women's Outreach is the first Friday of every month at 6:30 pm, also via Zoom. We've had great attendance (around 50 on Friday night and 20 on Saturday morning), and both service leaders and congregants are getting used to sitting in front of their computers, phones or iPads in order to tune in or lead us in prayer. Based on a recent conversation I've had with the EDCJCC, their reopening is in Phase III and they are currently planning for a “beginning of September” start date; but this is no guarantee and there will be restrictions – i.e., social distancing requirements and limits on the number of people in the building and in a particular space – when this occurs, so nobody should get too excited thinking that we will be able to start holding services in person when the space reopens. It's quite likely that Zoom services will continue into the fall.

Of course, you must be curious about the High Holy Days; our beautiful, moving, meaningful, spiritually lifting services, and our amazing choir that literally gives me goosebumps when they sing. As you can imagine, the choir has not been able to rehearse for many months. High Holy Day planning has begun, but the big question is will we be able to meet in person or will they, too, need to be held virtually. The Board, at its May meeting, came to the very difficult decision that it will not be possible to hold High Holy Day services in person this year. Even if we were allowed to return to worshipping together, the Board felt that it would not be safe to do so since we could not guarantee everyone's health, and it made no sense for us to be socially distant because that would mean having to simultaneously hold services virtually as well. We were all in agreement that it was all or none – all together in person, or all virtual. Just like everything else that has been different for us as a congregation, as a community, as a city, as a nation and as a world since March 2020, so too will this year's High Holy Day services. I have every reason to believe they will be as beautiful and moving as ever, but they will be different. We need to embrace that difference, and understand that we are doing this so everyone can remain safe and healthy which is our primary concern. And there is a

bright side – holding the High Holy Days virtually will save the congregation about \$25,000.

We've already had two congregants say that they are willing to help on the technology side for the High Holy Days, but if you have that experience and also want to participate, please email Barry Friedman at [ad-ministrationdirector@betmish.org](mailto:administrationdirector@betmish.org). We are investigating whether or not Zoom is our best option or if there are better alternatives and/or how we might improve the Zoom experience (better microphones, cameras etc.).

I hope that everyone is safe and healthy. In our second round of calls to congregants to check in and see how people are doing, everyone seems to be adjusting and doing their best to remain positive. If you need pastoral care, please reach out to Rabbi Jake at rabi@betmish.org. Additionally, we have other medical professionals in our congregation who have also agreed to be a resource if need be, so please let Rabbi Jake or me (president@betmish.org) know if that would help.



Tisha B'Av

Of the days remaining in the Jewish calendar before the High Holy Days and their prelude in *Elul*, the most significant is *Tisha B'Av* (the 9th of Av), observed this year starting at sundown on Wednesday, July 29. *Tisha B'Av* is a day of profound mourning, as, according to our tradition, the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem took place on this day. The day also commemorates other major calamities of Jewish history, many of which have clustered on or around the 9th of Av. These include: the expulsions from England, France and Spain; the commencement of the First Crusade; and the beginning of the Holocaust.

The period of mourning actually starts three weeks before *Tisha B'Av*, with the Fast of the Seventeenth of *Tammuz*. On that day, the Romans first broke through the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple. The mourning intensifies once Av begins and culminates with the rituals of *Tisha B'Av*, which call for fasting and other abstentions similar to those for *Yom Kippur*. The Book of Lamentations and dirges are read in the synagogue. Sephardic synagogues may also read from the Book of Job.

While Bet Mishpachah will have no program on *Tisha B'Av* itself, we hope that you will take time on this day to remember the tragedies of our history and mourn the millions of Jewish martyrs lost over the millennia.

Celebrate!

Member Birthdays

July

Joel Berelson
 Jeffrey Berns
 LySandra Brady
 Patricia Carlton
 Belinda Cross
 Ruth Eisenberg
 Deb Hyman
 Kenneth Kennedy
 Denise Leish
 Ellen Levy
 Robert Saks
 Neal Strauss
 Marjorie Willner
 Ted Xakellis
 Craig Ziskin
 Evan Zukerman

August

David Bachman
 Louis Blank
 Evan Brettell
 Eva Freund
 Martin Less
 Brian Parks
 Rene Rodriguez
 Joanna Cohan Scherer
 Gilbert Swift
 David Vos



Member Anniversaries

July

Patricia Carlton and Margaret Detwiler
 Richard Gondelman and Frank Marino
 Deb Hyman and Paula Morris
 Michael Resnick and Michael J. Farley
 Carl Spatz and Thomas Hesselbrock
 Catherine Tarabochia and Sarajane Garten
 Elyse Wander and Judy Retchin

August

Louis Blank and Dan Yost
 Ellen Levy and Joy Savage
 Cookie Backelman and Sally Ward
 LySandra Brady and Barbara Goldberg
 Alex Ford and Hal Ponder
 Joanna Cohan Scherer and Noel Penny Elliott

Mazal Tov to Seymour Stern who retired after 41 years of working for the Department of Transportation

Congratulations to Barbara Lewis for being a recipient of the 2020 Queer Women of Washington Award which is awarded by the Mayors Office of LGBTQ Affairs

Membership Matters

More now than ever, our house of worship — our sanctuary is our safety net on which we all depend during these chaotic times. Our congregation contains some courageous and dedicated founding members who, 44 years ago in a very different time, took the risk to create a place of worship where they could be safe within their *minyan*. You may not see them at services on a regular basis or even know their names, but they continue to be among Bet Mish's most generous financial supporters. Now it is our turn to step up and provide them the assurance that we will continue to fund our house of worship and provide a safe sanctuary for LGBTQ prayer into the future.

Even though our doors at the DCJCC sanctuary are closed by the pandemic, we still are able to attend our Shabbat services in the safety of our homes through the virtual doors made possible by video conferencing. Over the past month, many of our members have worked together in order to successfully provide us a way of virtually connecting each week at services and our Rabbi's classes.

Our annual Membership drive is upon us. Supporting our own house of worship is a Jewish value. The most obvious parallel in the Torah is the half *shekel* we read about every spring. Every adult Israelite is obligated to give a half *shekel* to the community every year. There's also the Rabbinic interpretation of one's obligation to give 10% of one's income every year to *Tz'daka*, which is for the synagogue, the poor, Jewish education, *Mikva*, etc.

Tz'daka is the feminine form of *Tzedek*, the Hebrew root that means fairness, righteousness and justice. It's the right thing to do. We are obligated to give a certain amount every year to pay our fair share of maintaining our communal institutions. In our case, it costs \$1,200 per person per year to run Bet Mishpachah's current programs.

In many European countries, the Jewish community gave you a bill for what you were obligated to pay, and they could legally force you to pay it. In America where belonging to the Jewish community and supporting Jewish institutions is voluntary, we are even more in need of everyone paying their fair share and a little bit more.

A quick note on the difference between *Tz'daka* and charity: While *Tz'daka* is a *mitzva* and an obligation, Charity is from the Latin and it means that we give out of caring and love. These are the vital contributions we receive from you that are in addition to your annual membership dues.

I promise we won't send a battalion of arm twisters to knock at your doors to force you to pay your dues. However, as your Membership Director, I am tasked with contacting you in hopes that you will fulfill your Jewish obligation of *Tz'daka*. The 'ask' will be fair and necessary. Please give as generously as you can. Our Jewish values call upon us to take good care of our House — our beloved Bet Mishpachah.

In unity and faith,
 Deb Hyman, Membership Director

Thank You!



Thank You to Our May and June Service Leaders

- Friday, May 1: Louis Blank
- Friday, May 8: Alex Carter & Rabbi Ben Shalva
- Saturday, May 9: Jeff Burka and Marc Bernstein
- Friday, May 15: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, May 22: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Rachel Hamberger
- Saturday, May 23: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, May 29: Allan Armus

- Friday, June 5: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, June 12: Vinny Prell and Scott Reiter
- Saturday, June 13: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin
- Friday, June 19: Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Robyn Helzner
- Friday, June 26: Paula Morris and Eryca Kasse
- Saturday, June 27: Larry Neff



Consider sponsoring an *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush* when we return to the EDCJCC and see each other in person again!

Thank you to Murray Woldman, for sponsoring the June 27 Kiddush on the *yartzeit* of his father, Philip Woldman, z”l.

When we were able to meet for services in person, we asked congregants to consider sponsoring an *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush* lunch 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 bring extended life 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.

Want to sponsor? We have dates available into 2021. Just sign up at: betmish.org/get-involved. Kindly donate via the link at: <http://www.betmish.org/donate> or mail a check to **Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C., 20013.**



Volunteer Recognition Shabbat—Friday, August 7 Presenting the Harvey Milk *Chesed* and the 2020 Dace Stone Awards

This year, the Bet Mishpachah Annual Volunteer Recognition Service will be held during the (virtual) Friday, August 7th *Erev Shabbat* Service. In addition to formally recognizing and honoring the many volunteers who help make our congregation so successful we will also be honoring our incredible and deeply committed Choir Director, Michael Resnick for the 2020 Dace Stone Volunteer of the Year Award, and to Ruth Eisenberg, our 2020 Harvey Milk *Chesed* Award for her extraordinary Legal work supporting causes dear to our community.

We will be circulating in advance a Commemorative Booklet listing all volunteers and their specific activities. They will also be recognized in a brief ceremony during the service. We look forward to recognizing the many other helpful contributions Ruth Eisenberg and Michael Resnick have made to our Congregation. Please help us congratulate the many members who have volunteered during this past year and especially honor Ruth and Michael by joining us Friday, August 7th at *Erev Shabbat* 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.

April and May 2020 Member Donations

Mark Goldfarb Memorial Accessibility Fund

Mindy Gasthalter in memory of Ben Mendelson, Ava Sebastian and Martha Wolkowitz
Rachel Wolkowitz, in memory of Destinee Sims

Woldman Oneg and Kiddush Fund

Jeffrey Burka
Mindy Gasthalter, in memory of Adeline Kaplan
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn, in memory of their mothers, Edna Korn and Sylvia Liff
Rabbi Bob & Loretta Saks, in honor of Rabbi Jake's daughter, Avital Ruth
Rabbi Bob & Loretta Saks, in memory of Eleanor Frishman and Judith Irene Pomper
Rachel Wolkowitz, in memory of Howard Gene Isom
Eva Freund & Elke Martin, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper

Operating Fund

Kasey Bigsby & Evan Zuckerman
Alex Carter
Deb Hyman & Paula Morris
Doug Auerbach
Evan & Jackie Brettell
Ruth Potts
Gilbert Swift
JonRobert Johnson
Craig Ziskin & Roger Schechter, in memory of Judith Pomper
Rachel Wolkowitz, in memory of Ben Mendelson
Joel Berelson, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper
Marc Bernstein, in honor of Rabbi Jake's daughter, Avital Ruth
Keith Cohen, in memory of his brother, Martin's first *yartzeit*
Nathaniel Deutsch, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper
David Fox & Robert Margrave, in memory of his grandparents and Ben Mendelson
Barry Friedman, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper, Ann and Morris Friedman and his mother Ann's *yartzeit*
Mindy Gasthalter, in memory of Cheryl Swannack and Judith Irene Pomper
Jocelyn Kaplan, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper
Diane Liff & Georgia Korn, in memory of Henry James

Siddur Fund

Devra Floyd
Steven Frank and Ed Knight
Barry Friedman in memory of his uncle, Ben Mendelson
Michael Hoffman
Andrea Jenetta
Eryca Kasse
Barbara Lewis
Joseph Pomper
Martin Daniel Robinson
Jonathon Swiderski
Gilbert Swift
Yutta Brettschneider
Mary Arras
Judy Barlas
Keith Cohen
Patricia Carlton
Anschel Joness
Margy Kohn
Sheila Levin

Richard A Kopely Memorial Emergency Assistance Fund

Rachel Wolkowitz, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper
David Fox & Robert Margrave, in memory of Judith Irene Pomper and Ava Sebastian
Joseph Pomper in memory of his mother, Judith Irene Pomper

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

JoHanna Potts
Eva Freund & Elke Martin, welcome baby Avital Ruth
Mindy Gasthalter, Mazal tov on the birth of Baby Girl Singer-Ackerman
Hank Londner, In celebration of the birth of Rabbi Jake's daughter
Doug Auerbach, in honor of Avital Ruth Ackerman-Singer

Non-Member Donations: Operating Fund

Marc Cohen, in memory of Martin Cohen

Like our facebook page

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.



July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Visit http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar for the most up-to-date information and community events.</p>		<p>While the EDC ICC is closed, Bet Mish will hold services, classes and Women's Outreach via Zoom (see page 1).</p>	<p>1 7:30 pm—Lois Roman from Memorial Scrolls Trust will talk about our Czech Torah (page 3)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Women's Outreach Potluck (see page 2 for details) 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service led by Allan Armus</p>	<p>4</p>
5	6	7	<p>8 7:30 pm—Social Justice committee meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Mizmor Shabbat (page 2) 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin and Rabbi Ben Shalva</p>	<p>11 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin</p>
12	13	14	15	<p>16 6:45 pm Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p>17 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service led by Scott Reiter and Rachel Hamberger</p>	<p>18</p>
19	20	21	22	23	<p>24 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service led by Larry Neff</p>	<p>25 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service led by Jeff Burka and Marc Bernstein</p>
26	27	28	<p>29 <i>Erev Tisha B'Av</i></p>	<p>30 <i>Tisha B'Av</i> 7:00 pm Book Club</p>	<p>31 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service led by Allan Armus</p>	<p><i>August 1</i></p>

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7 6:30 pm Women's Outreach Potluck (see page 2 for details); 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service led by Paula Morris Volunteer Recognition Shabbat (see page 6)	8 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service led by Scott Reiter
9	10	11	12	13	14 Mizmor Shabbat with Robyn Helzner (page 2) 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service	15
16	17	18	19	20 6:45 pm Board of Directors Meeting	21 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service	22 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
23	24	25	26	27	28 8:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service	29
30	31		While the EDC JCC is closed, Bet Mish will hold services, classes and Women's Outreach via Zoom (see page 1)	Bet Mishpachah follows the Triennial reading cycle—this year is Year 1 of the 3-year cycle	Weekly Torah readings can be found at www.hebcal.com/sedrot Visit http://betmish.org/index.php/news-and-upcoming-events/calendar for the most up-to-date information and community events	

Bet Mishpachah Yizkor Booklet for 5781

In Jewish tradition, when we write the name of someone we love or respect who has died, we append the Hebrew letters *zayin* and *lamed* after their name. This stands for *zichrono l'vracha*, "may they be remembered as a blessing." It means that when we call them to mind, we should remember the good that they did in their lives and keep it alive through our own actions.

What we do and how we behave is a reflection of our parents', teachers', and other loved ones' influence on our own lives. We keep our memories of them alive, not just by a passive recollection, but by doing something — a *mitzva* — and associating their names with our actions.

One way to do this is by making a donation to the congregation in their memory and having their names published in Bet Mishpachah's annual Yizkor booklet. This booklet is used on Yom Kippur and other holy days when Yizkor is observed. This is not the same as observing a *Yartzeit*, the anniversary of a death. Submitting names for *Yartzeit* announcements will not result in the names being published in the Yizkor booklet. You must take the active step to perform the *mitzva* by making a donation to publish their names in the Yizkor booklet.

We suggest a donation from everyone of at least \$18 (chai =life) per name. But what you give is up to you. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Names and donations should be mailed directly to:

Bet Mishpachah - Yizkor
c/o Armus
4309 11th Street North
Arlington, VA 22201-4748

Do not send your list and donation to the congregation's post office box or include it with your dues. This will only delay the process and increase the chance of errors.



**Listings must be received
 before
 Friday, September 4, 2020.**

*******A. Please print clearly using block letters. Names will be listed alphabetically.*******

B. Please list in the section below the names and relationships of those who have died during 5780 (since last Rosh ha-Shana). These names will be read aloud during the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
1.		6.	
2.		7.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	
5.		10.	

First Name Last Name Relationship Donor First name Donor Last name
Example: Arthur Einberg, Father of Morris Einberg

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I am making a donation of \$ _____, in memory of the above. May their names be remembered as a blessing.

Check enclosed: Name of Donor (please print) _____
 (Preferred)

MC VISA Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ Sec Code _____

Donor Signature _____ Date _____

EMAIL Address _____

Street Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

“Death is a popular topic” - Part I

Report on the 18th North American Chevra Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference, June 7-10, 2020

By Rod Ross, Bereavement Committee Chair

I’ve been on quite a journey this past year. It all began after a Friday evening service a year ago when John Winterson asked if I’d join the Bereavement Committee. In meeting with Allan Armus and Bruce Horowitz, I realized I was the new chair. When Allan told me about a planned conference on bereavement and burial topics, I decided to sign up. I’m glad I did, notwithstanding that it meant sitting in front of my computer for four long days, attending sessions organized by the Gamliel Institute, whose website is jewish-funerals.org/gamliel

The Institute, the brain child of Rabbi Stuart Kelman (Berkeley, CA) and David Zinner (Columbia, MD), just celebrated its ten-year anniversary. Its purpose is to provide assistance, training, and resources about Jewish death and bereavement practices for bereavement committees and *Chevra Kadisha* groups, in synagogues and communities throughout North America. I’m writing this less than one week after the end of the conference, while my memories are still fresh. With Part II for the next issue of *Mishpachah Matters*, I’ll go back and fill in blanks, with prayers, readings and blessings created for our current age of Covid-19.

These may include responses to questions such as the following. What would be a possible prayer for donning a face-mask? What extended prayer might a care-giver want to say? Is there a blessing a rabbi might give to two widowed seniors who want to spend intimate time together without the benefit of marriage? And what of an individual whose spouse, though alive, because of dementia and physical limitations, can no longer be a true companion for the spouse on the “outside”?

Before continuing, let me review some relevant vocabulary:

Kavod v’Nichum — parent organization of the Gamliel Institute, showing how to honor the deceased and support the bereaved

Chevra Kadisha — Jewish burial society

Meit/ah/ot — body of the deceased

Nechama — comfort

Nefesh — generally mistranslated as soul or the breath-of-life within each of us

Shiva — post-funeral home visitations with the bereaved

Shmirah — funeral-home guarding and watchfulness over the *meit/ah/ot*

Taharah — ritual of prayers, coupled with lovingly cleaning, washing, purifying, dressing and “casketing” the deceased

Viddui — death-bed prayer of getting-right with G-d

Yartzeit — yearly death-anniversary

Yizkor — death-associated memorial service, notably on Yom Kippur

While technical problems were being resolved, I “stepped forward” to introduce myself. In doing so, I explained that I liked bookends in life, and that my attendance at a *Chevra Kaddish* conference was in itself a possible bookend. The key was my Ross surname. A 1904 passenger manifest for the North German Lloyd Liner’s arrival into Baltimore harbor gave my grandfather’s name as Leib Resch. A Yiddish expert in New York explained that Resch was simply a Yiddish variant of the Hebrew word *Rosh*, as in *Rosh Hashanah*. The woman suggested that the original Resch would have been head of something, perhaps a *Chevra Kadisha* Committee, and that was probably why the name was chosen.

For the just-concluded conference, I felt I learned how Covid-19 has upended so many traditional practices. During the month of March, dictates went out from health officials and religious leaders that in-person *Taharah* was to cease. No longer were large funeral gatherings permitted. Bereaved could no longer host home *Shiva* services.

But in the midst of enforced isolation, creativity has emerged. My favorite conference story, perhaps apocryphal, involved a Hasidic rabbi officiating at a sparsely attended funeral. Given the few numbers present instead of leading the recitation of *Kaddish*, he asked those present to demonstrate that they knew the words of the *Kaddish*.

When it came to choosing workshops to attend, I mostly ignored those with emphasis on *Taharah* rituals and cemetery operations. Instead, I sought out presentations focusing on “mourning and grief.” The one exception was when I attended the session on human composting. Yes, human composting — something at present legally permitted only in the state of Washington. It involves placing a body into a chamber within a specially-built facility. Appropriate natural ingredients are added to the chamber, and for 30 days the contents are gently churned. The end-product doesn’t need to take up burial space. Nor does the process involve the release of toxic gases into the environment as is the case with cremation.

To my surprise, I found the concluding session on the Gamliel Institute to be especially meaningful. The session included a review of successes and failures of the past decade. The successes included the bringing together of staff, the creating of a core curriculum, augmenting existing literature and broadening offerings beyond those required of graduates. Negatives included failures in gaining significance acceptance from traditional religious conferences and locating sources of foundation funding.

Space doesn’t permit my describing in full an account of the workshops, but I’d like to share what I learned from the session on “History of Plagues” and the one on “History and Mystery of *Yizkor*.”

Ah, yes, plagues, with Rabbi Jonathan Seidel discussing Jewish responses to epidemics, contagion and disease. In the ancient Near East, the thought was that diseases were caused by angry gods. Rabbi Seidel shared with his audience text from a Babylonian 1200 BCE healing-ritual with transference of disease into a doll-substitute. By googling Jonathan Seidel Jewish Response to Plagues one can view the entire presentation through Facebook.

For the *Yizkor* session, Reb Simcha Raphael described the evolution of practices from the earliest mention in the second Book of Maccabees (12:39-44) and the Babylonian Talmud through liturgy developed during the Crusades and the Black Death down to contemporary times. Do the dead intercede for the living or vice versa? It would seem that the idea of making financial donations, in association with *Yizkor* observances, can be traced back to Deuteronomy 16:17.

A tangible result of my conference attendance has been the Bet Mishpachah revision of its membership form. There’s now space for Hebrew names of members and their parents. After the High Holy Days it’s my hope that the Bereavement Committee will be able to set up “death cafe” Zoom discussions along the lines described during one of the presentations.

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

Carol Anne Arras, mother of Mary Arras
 Martha Wolkowitz, grandmother of Rachel Wolkowitz
 Ava Sebastian, sister of Denise Leish
 Thelma Louise Brown, aunt of LySandra Brady
 Henry James, uncle of Barry Friedman
 Marjorie Weber, mother of Denise Leish
 Alfred W. Lehman, cousin of Michael Hoffman
 Leon Deutsch, father of Nathaniel Deutsch

Member Yartzeits**Announced Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27 (Yartzeits observed June 26 – July 2, Tamuz 4 - 10)**

Jan Berns, Uncle of Jeffrey Berns	June 26 (Tamuz 4)
Israel Pomper, Paternal Grandfather of Joe Pomper	June 26 (Tamuz 4)
Ruth Barlas, Mother of Judy Barlas	June 26
Hannah Lippert, Great aunt of Deb Hyman	June 26
Ida Grossman, Grandmother of Susan Kirshner	June 26
Marta Kusic, Friend of Reggie McBee	June 26
Genia Gloger, Grandmother of Erica Gloger	June 27
Charles Lewis, Father of Barbara Lewis	June 27
Lillian Spindel, Mother of Carol Stern	June 27
Gordy Severs Foster, foster Grandfather of Tric Nelson	June 27
Herman Kropf, Father of Barry Kropf	June 27 (Tamuz 5)
Chad Allen, Cousin of Larry Neff	June 28
Ruth Verdin, Aunt of Catherine Tarabochia	June 28
Samuel Gasthalter, Grandfather of Mindy Gasthalter	June 29
Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, Father of Miriam Eisenstein	June 29 (Tamuz 7)
Ursula Petersen, Friend of Elke Martin	June 29
Harry Reiter, Grandfather of Scott Reiter	June 29
Ruth Friedman, Grandmother of Louis Blank	June 30
Zelda Gordon, Aunt of Maxine Klane	July 1
George Singer, Uncle of Michael Singer	July 1
Alessandro Nobile, Nephew of Catherine Tarabochia	July 1
Isadore Kaboff, Grandfather of John Kaboff	July 2 (10 Tamuz)

Announced Friday, July 3 (Yartzeits observed July 3 -9, 11-17 Tamuz)

Evelyn Rheingold, Grandmother of Mindy Gasthalter	July 3
Jack Kahn, Grandfather of Jeffrey Kahn	July 4
Max Morris, Grandfather of Paula Morris	July 4 (12 Tamuz)
Ben Snaider, Uncle of Warren Snaider	July 5 (13 Tamuz)
Philip N. Woldman, Father of Murray Woldman	July 5 (13 Tamuz)
Ricardo Alcaraz, ex-Brother-in-law of Judy Barlas	July 6
Morton Retchin, Father of Judith Retchin	July 6
Lillian Dembo, Grandmother of Jocelyn Kaplan	July 7
Morrie Ringelheim, Brother-in-law of Georgia Korn	July 7
Anna Reich Lifshitz, Grandmother of Diane Liff	July 7
William Lifshitz, Grandfather of Diane Liff	July 8
Robert Marcus, Grandfather of Susan Silber	July 9
Harold Leftwich, Friend of Beth Cohen	July 9
Daniel Morales, Friend of Alicia Saffer	July 9

Announced Friday & Saturday, July 10 and 11 (Yartzeits observed July 10 – 16, 18-24 Tamuz)

Morris Rosetsky, Grandfather of Judy Barlas	July 10
Eleanor Berelson, Grandmother of Joel Berelson	July 10
Jeffrey Bernstein, Friend & neighbor of Larry Neff	July 10
Sam Sharp, Grandfather of Murray Woldman	July 11 (19 Tamuz)
Martha Spatz Cohen, Aunt of Carl Spatz	July 12 (20 Tamuz)
Sheba P. Scher, Aunt of Ruth Potts	July 13 (21 Tamuz)
Elizabeth Gossett, Mother of Patrick Gossett	July 14
W. James Roddie, Uncle of Reggie McBee	July 14

Member Yartzeits (Continued from page 12)**Announced Friday & Saturday, July 10 and 11 (Yartzeits observed July 10 – 16, 18-24 Tamuz)**

Elizabeth Graefe Gossett, Mother-in-law of Howard Menaker	July 14
Gertrude Yaseen, Grandmother of Marisa Uchin	July 14
Sylvia Seidman, Aunt of Lawrence Berman	July 15 (23 Tamuz)
Ana Besa Selbin, Grandmother of Denise Leish	July 15
Jacob Spindel, Grandfather of Carol Stern	July 15
Shirley Nigberg, Aunt of Jocelyn Kaplan	July 15
Thelma Adams, Aunt of Patricia Carlton	July 16
Edward Levy, Jr., Father of Ellen Levy	July 16
Commander James Alan Graf, Former Partner of Tom Sachs	July 16

Announced Friday, July 17 (Yartzeits observed July 17 - 23, 25 Tamuz – 2 Av)

Monroe Fabian, Friend of Larry Neff	July 18
Joan Berelson, Aunt of Joel Berelson	July 19
Lorna Kasarsky, Mother of Andi Kasarsky	July 19
Judy Himpler, Dear Friend of Ruth Potts	July 19
Israel Eisenberg, Father of Ruth Eisenberg	July 19 (27 Tamuz)
Paul Kaufman, Uncle of Michael Resnick	July 19 (27 Tamuz)
Bernice Hyman, Mother of Deb Hyman	July 21
Marjorie Lewis, Mother of Barbara Lewis	July 21
Mac Gottfried, Great uncle of Joel Berelson	July 22
Consuelo Sides, Mother of LySandra Brady	July 22
Bessie Montgomery Prather, Partner's Mother of Mark	July 23
Leonard I. Frank, Father of Steven Frank	July 23
Belle Bergman, Aunt of Georgia Korn	July 23
Grace Milgram, Mother of Betty Milgram	July 23
Susan Kessler, Grandmother of Jackie Brettell	July 23
Gloria Marcus Silber, Mother-in-law & Mother of June Peters & Sue Silber	July 23
David Lax, Uncle of Stuart Sotsky	July 23 (2 Av)

Announced Friday & Saturday, July 24 & 25 (Yartzeits observed July 24 - 30, 3 – 9 Av)

Emile Bocian, Great Uncle of Jocelyn Kaplan	July 24
Marvin Earl Segal, Father of Scott Segal	July 24
Dorothy Neiterman, Grandmother of Michael Resnick	July 25 (4 Av)
Richard Horovitz, Beloved friend of Stuart Sotsky	July 26 (5 Av)
Robin Aleo, Niece of Steven Weinberg	July 26 (5 Av)
Lee Desjardins, Foster Grandmother of Catherine Tarabochia	July 26
Eva Schindler-Rainman, Friend of Elke Martin and Eva Freund	July 27
Joseph Lev, Grandfather of Larry Neff	July 27
Gertrude Stein, Historical Figure	July 27
Leon Gasthalter, Father of Mindy Gasthalter	July 29
Leo Umansky, Father of Morris Umansky	July 30
Florence Cohen, Great aunt of John Kaboff	July 30 (8 Av)
Jack Stein, Friend of John Kaboff	July 30 (9 Av)
Michel Frisch, Grandfather of Mitchell Haymes	July 30 (9 Av)
Shirley Sklar Umansky, Grandmother of Morris Umansky	July 30

Announced Friday, July 31 (Yartzeits observed July, 31 – August 6, 10 – 16 Av)

Eva Kaplan, Grandmother of Jocelyn Kaplan	July 31
John Scott, Nephew of Barbara Goldberg & LySandra Brady	July 31
James Scher, Cousin of Ruth Potts	July 31 (10 Av)
Ronald B. Balin, Friend of Eva Freund	August 2
Robert Erickson, Grandfather of Jessie T	August 2
Ethel Morris, Grandmother of Paula Morris	August 3 (13 Av)
Edith Schwinder Umansky, Aunt of Morris Umansky	August 4
Fay Stern, Mother of Al Stern	August 4 (14 Av)
Simcha Munzer, Father of Al Munzer	August 5 (15 Av)
Natalie Goldberg, Sister-in-law of Jerald Goldberg	August 6



Member Yartzeits (Continued from page 13)**Announced Friday and Saturday, August 7 & 8 (Yartzeits observed August 7 -13, 17 – 23 Av)**

Charles Haymes, Father of Mitchell Haymes	August 9 (19 Av)
Irving Peltzman, Father of Maxine Klane	August 9
Patricia Sandra Winterbauer, Friend of Morris Umansky	August 11
Joseph Horowitz, Father of Bruce Horowitz	August 11 (21 Av)
Rose Cohen, Grandmother of Marc Bernstein	August 12 (22 Av)
Abraham, Grandfather of Mark	August 12 (22 Av)
Kris Bowman, Partner of Vinny Prell	August 12 (22 Av)
Lynne Sandra Cutler, Friend of Elke Martin	August 12
Renee Reiter, Mother of Scott Reiter	August 12
Dorothy Sendrowitz, Grandmother of Lawrence Berman	August 14 (24 Av)

Announced Friday, August 14 (Yartzeits observed August 14 – 20, 24 - 30 Av)

Dace Stone, Friend of Alex Carter & Ruth Potts	August 15
Louis Aaron Friedman, Grandfather of Louis Blank	August 16
Judith Goodman, Mother of Alan Goodman	August 17
Merrill Egorin, Friend of Ruth Potts	August 17 (27 Av)
Joseph Snaider, Grandfather of Warren Snaider	August 17 (27 Av)
Aaron Apelberg, Grandfather of Eytan Apelberg	August 18 (28 Av)
Erica Nash, Winner of 2007 Harvey Milk Chesed Award	August 18
Terry Friedman, Dear friend of Judy Barlas	August 19
Sanford Sobel, Uncle of Sarajane Garten	August 20
Florence Janpole, Aunt of Susan Silber	August 20
Bessie Marcus, Grandmother of Susan Silber	August 20
Arthur Freed, Grandfather of Seymour Stern	August 20
Miriam Brina Monesso, Aunt of Denise Leish	August 21
Harry Polikoff, Father of Nancy Polikoff	August 21

Announced Friday and Saturday, August 21 & 22 (Yartzeits observed August 21 – 27, 1 – 7 Elul)

William Casel, Cousin of Larry Neff	August 22
Nancy E. Johnson, Sister of JonRobert Johnson	August 22
William Hinckley, Friend of Howard Stark	August 24
Jay Kornfeld, Grandfather of Howard Menaker	August 24 (4 Elul)
Tole Madna, Foster father of Al Munzer	August 25 (5 Elul)
Isaac J. Magid, Grandfather of Carl Spatz	August 25 (5 Elul)
Aaron Lax, Grandfather of Stuart Sotsky	August 26 (6 Elul)
Bertha Jacobs, Teacher and Friend of Sarajane Garten	August 26
Stephen Paul Lev, Cousin of Larry Neff	August 26
Isaac Silber, Grandfather of Fran Sneider	August 26
Eve Bollinger Panell, Mother of Charles Stewart	August 26
Ida Sherman, Aunt of Art Leabman	August 26
Margaret Carol Farley, Mother-in-law of Michael Resnick	August 26 (6 Elul)
Charlotte Helen Resnick, Mother of Michael Resnick	August 27 (7 Elul)
Shirley Klein, Mother of Michael Klein	August 27

Announced Friday, August 28 (Yartzeits observed August 28 – September 3, 8 – 14 Elul)

Miriam Chashin, Great Aunt and Godmother of Scott Reiter	August 29
Harold, Father of Richard	August 29 (9 Elul)
Delores Weinberg, Aunt of John Kaboff	August 29 (9 Elul)
Giorgina DeLeon Vitale, Mother of Loretta Vitale Saks	August 29 (9 Elul)
Isadore Garten, Grandfather of Sarajane Garten	August 29 (9 Elul)
David Kushner, Grandfather of Eytan Apelberg	August 30 (10 Elul)
Elaine Singer, Mother of Michael Singer	August 30
Frederic L. Stern, Father of Seymour Stern	August 30
Beatrice Web, Adoptive mother of Devra Floyd	August 31
Nathan Jewler, Father of Don Jewler	August 31
Hyman Umansky, Uncle of Morris Umansky	August 31
Fanny L. Stern, Aunt of Larry Neff	September 2
David Spindel, Father of Carol Stern	September 3
Ricky Lee Collins, Partner of Charles Stewart	September 3

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 the website for details on connecting.

Bet Mishpachah holds *Shabbat* services every **Friday at 8:00 pm**, followed by an *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 *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 — see next column to subscribe to both.

To Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush Lunch, send an email to 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

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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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

For a free electronic subscription, send an email to administrator@betmish.org

To advertise in our newsletter, contact 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 that cannot be printed in our newsletter. **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.

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