

Mishpachah Matters

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

Rabbi's Column

Rabbi Toby Manewith

In Jewish tradition, we celebrate Passover once a year, including an elaborate retelling of the triumphant story of the Exodus from Egypt. Though there's one week set aside for remembrance and celebration, in which we concentrate our attention on this seminal event in Jewish history, Jewish liturgy implores us to remember the exodus from Egypt every day.

Though many congregations invoke victims of the Holocaust before the recitation of *Kaddish* at religious services, our communal call to memory is relegated to one day a year. *Yom ha-Zikaron laShoah ve-laGvura* (Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day) often shortened to *Yom ha-Shoah* is held on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan, a few weeks after Passover and a week before Israel Independence Day. This year, Yom ha-Shoah falls on April 19th.

I've often wondered if the Holocaust had occurred nearer to when our liturgy was in formation, if it would have had a greater place in our daily Jewish life than it does today. Perhaps given another few hundred years it will. In the meantime, as Holocaust survivors and heroes are fewer and fewer, it's incumbent upon us, to keep this in our active memory.

This year, the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) is giving us an opportunity to do just that.

Perhaps you're already aware that JSSA runs a Holocaust Survivor Program. Here a few things you may not know:

- In 2011, JSSA served 225 Holocaust survivor clients, 40 of whom were new to the program.
- The average age of JSSA's Holocaust survivor client is 85. Fifteen percent of clients are over 90.

(Continued on page 4)

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Bet Mishpachah Acquires Cemetery Space

As discussed at length at the annual meeting last December, the board has been deliberating for many months about the acquisition of congregational space at the Elesavetgrad Cemetery in SE Washington, DC. At the February board meeting, the decision was made to proceed with the acquisition. In March, we acquired the first 12 sites.

There are some administrative procedures that are still being worked on, but here is what we can say right now.

We eventually will have interment rights for forty sites in a new section of the cemetery. We have twelve now, and we will get twelve more next year (or sooner if necessary). We are committed to these twenty-four sites (3 rows of 8). The next two rows are being reserved for us, and we have the option to acquire them.

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Bet Mishpachah Communications

This newsletter is published monthly by Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, DC 20013. Articles must be received by the first Tuesday of the month prior to publication and should be sent to news-editor@betmish.org. The newsletter is sent to members, donors, and various organizations. For a three-month trial subscription, write to office@betmish.org. To advertise in our newsletter, contact advertise@betmish.org.

The congregation also publishes ATCBM, the electronic bulletin board of Bet Mishpachah, which contains late-breaking congregational news, as well as other Jewish and/or GLBT news that cannot be printed in this newsletter. We maintain a website at www.betmish.org with synagogue information and links to other Websites of interest.

Information contained in any of our publications may be reprinted without permission, but acknowledgment of the source is required. Direct any questions about our editorial or advertising policies to communications@betmish.org.

Shabbat Services

Bet Mishpachah holds Shabbat services every Friday at 8:00 pm and the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at 10:00 am at the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center (DCJCC), 16 and Q Streets, NW. Sign Language interpretation is available by request to sign@betmish.org with a minimum of two weeks notice. Any changes to this regular schedule will appear on our website (www.betmish.org), in the month's printed calendar, and/or in our electronic bulletin board ATCBM.

Enter the DCJCC building on Friday nights through the Q Street door. You will be buzzed in by our *shammash*. Shabbat worship will be in the DCJCC Kay Community Hall, on the right as you enter. A parking lot is available behind the DCJCC and may be entered from Q Street. It has approximately 20 spaces, including one designated for disabled drivers. Additionally, on Sunday through Thursday nights (but not on Fridays), the DCJCC operates a shuttle between its building and the Q Street entrance to the Dupont Circle Metrorail station.

Donations

To make a donation to our congregation, please send it to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, D.C. 20073-0520.

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Electronic Newsletter Subscription

Do you want to receive Mishpachah Matters electronically and in living color, while saving the synagogue money? Send an email to pdfnews-subscribe@betmish.org. Include all the email addresses where you would like to receive the electronic newsletter and your mailing address, as you will no longer need the paper version.

Address, Phone, Email Changes

Send your name and old and new information to address-change@betmish.org.

ATCBM Subscription

If you wish to receive ATCBM, our electronic announcements about events at Bet Mishpachah and of interest to the Jewish GLBT community, please send an email to secretary@betmish.org with 'ATCBM' in the subject line and the email address where you would like to receive mail.

ATCBM Item Submission

Email your item in the body of an email (no attachments) for ATCBM Submissions to atcbm@betmish.org.

Bikur Cholim — We Care About You

We want to provide the support and comfort our members need during a difficult time. If you become ill or hospitalized, or suffer a loss, or know of a member who has, please let us know. You can email bikur-cholim@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.

To Schedule a Bet Mishpachah Event

Email the date, space needs, and number of expected attendees to calendar@betmish.org.

To Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush

Send an email to oneg@betmish.org, with the date you'd like to sponsor, and the occasion.

Bet Mishpachah's Affiliations

Bet Mishpachah is a member of: Network of Independent Jewish Communities and Havurot; Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington; World Congress of GLBT Jews: *Keshet Ga'avah*; Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington; and Celebration of the Spirit Coalition.

Mark Klempner, Holocaust Rescuer Researcher, to Speak on April 20

Please join us on Friday, April 20, for a very special presentation following *Shabbat* services. Mark Klempner, who lives in Costa Rica, has recently published a book entitled, "The Heart Has Reasons" (www.hearthasreasons.com), that he has spent the last nine years researching. During his nine years of research, he interviewed Holocaust rescuers to try to determine not only why they did what they did, but where their moral compasses point today, and their advice to young activists. As Garret Keizer describes it, "An invaluable book for anyone who seeks to learn—or relearn—the art of compassionate resistance."

This will be an exciting opportunity for us to listen to the author talk as he is in town for only a few days to address Congress. If you would like to learn more about his work, please visit his web page, <http://bit.ly/zyh40G>, at the New York Council of the Humanities Speakers Bureau. It includes a link to his website, which contains a great deal of additional information.

Northern VA Chavura in Delaware – April 21st, 2012

Rescheduled from December. You are invited to a special Saturday evening at the beach! At 6 pm we will share a potluck dinner followed by the 2004 movie "Protocols of Zion." This movie, a chilling look at anti-Semitism, is a must see in the wake of 9/11. A short (or maybe not-so-short) discussion will follow the movie.

We will pause to celebrate *Havdala* at 8:30 pm, and end the discussion in time to catch some of the local nightlife—or to stay a while and "schmooze,"

Several Bet Mishpachah members have offered to make their extra beach bedrooms available for those not wanting to drive home immediately following this event.

To RSVP for this event, and/or to request accommodations, contact Barbara Brady-Goldberg at: swarow2000@yahoo.com or (703) 548-1086 or (703) 298-9925 (mobile). *Barbara will need to hear from you by April 14th*, so don't delay!

Changes Coming to the Newsletter

This issue marks the final monthly printed version of Mishpachah Matters. Starting in April, congregational news and information will be disseminated via the weekly "This Weekend and Beyond" message, the web site. Currently the Board of Directors is deciding between a bi-monthly or quarterly print bulletin.

Until recently, a print newsletter was the only way congregations could communicate with members and friends. We now have multiple ways to communicate and interact using various technologies, including Facebook and Twitter. Producing a monthly newsletter requires several things that make it challenging these days. Articles must be written far in advance of the print date.

Additionally, producing a print newsletter requires lots of volunteer and professional time. With both the position of Vice President for Communications and Newsletter Editor being unfilled, it has become clear that producing a monthly newsletter is no longer the best investment of our congregation's limited resources.

If you are not yet subscribed to "This Weekend and Beyond," please send your e-mail address to secretary@betmish.org, and Aaron Hoffman will make sure your email address will be added to the list. If you do not have email, be assured we will do our best to keep you up to date, especially when there is very important news to share. That's why the letter from Rabbi Manewith concerning her move back to Chicago was mailed via the US Postal Service the day before it was emailed to all members.

Bet Mishpachah Acquires Cemetery Space

(Continued from page 1)

- Members and their immediate family may acquire sites for \$2,000 each.
- Pre-need purchases may either be paid in full or in installments.
- Time of death purchases must be paid in full within 45 days of interment.
- Interfaith couples are permitted; however the certificate of ownership will be registered in the name of the Jewish spouse. No non-Jewish religious symbols are permitted on gravestones.
- Inurnments of cremated remains are permitted.
- No grave liners are required.
- The price will include perpetual care.
- The price does **not** include opening and closing costs.
- Gravestones are **not** included in the price of the site, but are required.

Detailed information about procedures will be finalized soon. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled in the fall. If you are interested in acquiring a site, contact Allan Armus at 703-525-4261 or Treasurer@betmish.org.

This Month in Jewish History

By Rabbi Toby Manewith

On April 1, 1895, the inaugural issue of *The American Jewess*, the first publication aimed explicitly at Jewish women, was published. The magazine covered a wide range of topics, from those that might be found in mainstream women's magazines, such as household management and beauty tips, and those geared specifically at Jewish women, including gender inequity in Judaism, Zionism, social justice efforts and features on prominent Jewish women. At its height, the publication claimed a circulation of more than 25,000.

The publication was driven by Rosa Sonneschein, who served as writer, editor and creative director for the publication's first seven volumes. Sonneschein left her life as a rabbi's wife in St. Louis to go the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. There, she met a number of like-minded Jewish women. *The American Jewess* was born out of their shared hope that Jewish women would continue to increase their sphere of influence, as they had through their involvement in Jewish women's groups popular in the second half of the 19th century.

The magazine was first envisioned among the Jewish women gathered at the 1893 World Parliament of Religions, the same conference at which the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) was founded. Consequently, it often served to promote the activities and ideals of the organization. Suggestions that the magazine become NCJW's official publication were not met eagerly. Today, NCJW has its own publication with a circulation rate more than double that of the *The American Jewess*.

The publication ceased printing just four years after its first issue in 1899. Sonneschein had ceded control of the magazine to her male managerial partner the year earlier, citing both health and financial concerns. Apparently, without Sonneschein's vision, the publication wasn't able to survive.

Rabbi's Column

(Continued from page 1)

- Nearly seventy percent of JSSA's Holocaust survivor clients require either moderate or full assistance with activities of daily living including such things as bathing, dressing and housekeeping assistance.

One other important fact: This year JSSA's Holocaust Survivor Program is facing a \$200,000 deficit.

I usually don't use this space to solicit donations and certainly not for other organizations. But when this came across my desk, it was hard to ignore.

A number of years ago, I led a number of trips to Germany for Jewish college students. I remember a conversation in which a student adamantly declared that he was curious enough to come on the trip but that he had regretted his decision and would never return; he was uninterested in learning more about a country that had so methodically decimated its Jewish population. When asked how he felt about visiting Spain or Rome, or Egypt, his feelings were different.

The Holocaust remains in our memory, but doesn't seem to prompt the urgency of current anti-Semitism. Nor, as I noted earlier, does it hold a place in the forefront of our minds similar to events and persons in our remote history such as our forefathers and foremothers who are called to attention in our liturgy.

I don't know how much longer we will be privileged to have Holocaust heroes and survivors in our midst, telling their stories. While we do, I think it's incumbent upon us to make sure they're well cared for.

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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>

BetMishpachah

Twitter: twitter.com/betmish

Email: office@betmish.org

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Project Hope – NOVA & Maryland GLOE Rainbow Seder, 5:00 pm, HRC Offices	2	3	4	5	6 Community Seder, 7:00 pm, 6 th and I Historic Synagogue	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Shabbat Services, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leaders: Eryca Kasse & Eva Freund	14 Shabbat Morning Services, 10:00 am DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Manewith, Parshat for last day of <i>Pesach</i>
15 Board Meeting, 11:00 am, DCJCC	16	17	18	19	20 Shabbat Services – Guest Speaker: Mark Klempner, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Manewith	21 NOVA <i>Chavura</i> event, 5:00 pm, Lewes, DE
22 Service Leader Meeting, time TBA, DCJCC	23	24	25	26	27 Shabbat Services, 8:00 pm, DCJCC, Service Leader: Rabbi Manewith	28 Shabbat Morning Services, 10:00 am, DCJCC, Service Leader: Paula Morris with Rabbi Saks leading the Torah discussion, <i>Parshat Tazria- Metzora</i>
29	30					For the most up to date calendar information and community events, go to www.betmish.org/Calendar

Thank You!

Celebrate!

Thanks to Our March *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* Sponsors

Please sponsor an *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush* luncheon this year. Contact Barbara Goldberg at oneg@betmish.org or call her at (703) 548-1086 to save your date.

Friday, March 2: Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund; thanks to Marlene Cohen for shopping

Friday, March 9: Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund; no sponsor

Saturday, March 10: Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund; no sponsor

Friday, March 16: Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund; Awards *Shabbat*

Friday, March 23: Jessica Erfer, in honor of her husband's (Michael Gonen) safe return from Afghanistan, as well as in celebration their first wedding anniversary

Saturday, March 24: Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund; no sponsor

Friday, March 30: Batya Hyman & Belinda Cross, in honor of their second wedding anniversary and Batya's 60th birthday

Please consider sending a donation of *Chai* (\$18) or more to bring extended life to the Joel & Murray Woldman *Oneg Shabbat* & *Kiddush* Fund, established by a generous bequest from our beloved member Joel Woldman. Send donations to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, DC 20073-0520.

Thank You to Our March Service Leaders

Friday, March 2: Rabbi Toby Manewith

Friday, March 9: Jack Hillelsohn

Saturday, March 10: Rabbi Toby Manewith

Friday, March 16: Rabbi Toby Manewith

Friday, March 23: Alex Carter

Saturday, March 24: Scott Reiter

Friday, March 30: Allan Armus

Member Birthdays

April 2: Hank Londner

April 3: Carol S. Stern

April 5: M. Cecilia

April 9: Gail M. Tannenbaum

April 10: Keith Cohen

April 10: Barbara Goldberg

April 10: Karen Taylor

April 13: Harvey L. Stoler

April 13: John A. Winterson

April 14: Liora Moriel

April 15: Howard Menaker

April 17: Marcia Levy

April 20: Robert M. Hollis

April 20: Susan Silber

April 23: Jocelyn Kaplan

April 24: Jeff Burka

April 26: Paul Entis

April 28: Mark

Member Anniversaries

April 9:
Jerald Goldberg & James Olson

April 16:
Louis Blank & Dan Yost

April 18:
Ellen Levy & Joy Savage

April 21:
Diane B. Citron & Judith T. Smith

Mazel Tov!

To Elke Martin, who completed her CASP (Certified Aging Services Professional) certification through the University of North Texas.

How're we doin'?

That's a question I frequently get asked as treasurer of Bet Mishpachah. Since you asked, let me tell you.

First, you need to know that we operate on a fiscal year that runs from July 1st thru June 30th. As I write this, we have just completed the eighth month of our year—that's February 2012—and have four more months to go. We are also planning for the next fiscal year by working on the budget for FYE June 2013.

So how are we doing so far this year? We are OK. Our income is slightly below budget, chiefly due to lower than expected High Holy Day donations. But a successful calendar year end campaign and some employer matching donations made up for most of that shortfall. Expenses are pretty close to the budget, with a few minor exceptions. My projection for the end of this fiscal year is that we will have a small surplus. So far, so good.

We are only at the beginning of planning for next year's budget. While the situation is not critical, the picture isn't quite so rosy, and I am currently projecting a modest deficit. This assumes we do not increase our income over the previous year while expenses like salaries, rent, insurance, etc are going up. The board will be deliberating on how to address this in March and April when we finalize the budget.

So that's my story and I'm sticking to it. If you have any ideas on how to increase our income, let me know at Treasurer@betmish.org.

From The Archives

By Joel Wind, Archivist

This month in Bet Mishpachah history: **April**

In **April 1982**, David Green was President. There were 126 paid-up members. The monthly Women's Outreach Potluck Supper took place on the first Friday evening of the month. The board discussed the upcoming May auction, and decided that Friday night announcements would not be made from the floor and only by the board member on duty. The board also voted to contribute \$500 toward the new drapes for Christ United Methodist Church's social hall, since CUMC was going to fix up the rest of the social hall. Membership dues were cut in half to \$18 for the remainder of the fiscal year. Barrett Brick and Sheryl B. were guest speakers at the University of Maryland Hillel. The topic was the ten-year history of the Gay Jewish movement, our Congregation, and what it means to be a gay or lesbian Jew. About two dozen Hillel members attended the four-hour discussion.

In **April 1992**, Suzanne Wandersman was President. The monthly Women's Outreach Potluck Supper took place. Hug Ivrit, the Hebrew-speakers group, met, and the Book Group discussed Joyce Antler's *America and I*. Rabbi Saks led a workshop on *Halacha and Homosexuality*, and the final service leaders' workshop was held. The board voted to pursue space at the National City Christian Church. The first Shabbat service of the month featured Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, who spoke about *Judaism and Social Justice*. A Congregational Passover Seder was well attended, and a bowling benefit for Whitman-Walker Foodbank took place. A *Yom Ha-Shoah* Shabbat Service was held, and the Jewish Study Center sponsored a class on Sexual Orientation. Nine congregants rented a van for a weekend journey to Ellis Island. Finally, the first Men's Outreach Potluck Dinner took place.

In **April 2002** Milton Stern was president. The congregation received a request from the DC Minyan for the use of the Ark and Torah Scrolls on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings. The request was approved. Several congregants expressed a desire to begin Friday Night services at 8:00. They decided to table this discussion. The Women's Program continued the previous month's discussion of the *2002 Women of Valor*, a program of the Jewish Women's Archive. The topic was Anna Sokolow and was led by Rabbi Berner. This was followed by a *Yom ha-Shoah* Shabbat service. A Service Leaders workshop was held, and a series of *Early Jewish History* courses was led by Rabbi Saks. The first congregational Volunteer Recognition Shabbat took place, and Scott Reiter received the Dace Stone Volunteer of the Year Award. Game Night took place at the end of the month, as well as *Lag B'Omer* in Rock Creek Park.



Adult Story-telling Brunch May 20th, 2012

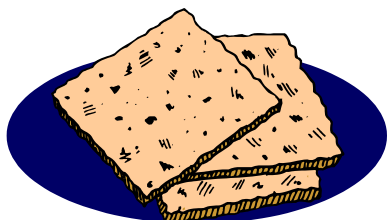
Don't miss the Adult Story-telling Brunch, May 20, 11:30 – 1:30, at the DCJCC, sponsored by the Bet Mishpachah education committee.

Our storyteller, Bob Rovinsky, has been telling stories for more than 25 years. He is a founding member of the "Voices in the Glen" Storytelling guild (www.voicesintheglen.org), who provides storytelling to groups and events throughout the Washington DC area.

Bob has merged his passion for storytelling with his interest in folk dancing and modern dance and studied under Liz Lerman, an internationally known choreographer and director of a professional company of dancers in Washington, D.C. He has performed at synagogues, birthday parties, and other events. His repertoire includes stories from all over the world, and span folk tales, true stories, wisdom tales and stories with a moral point.

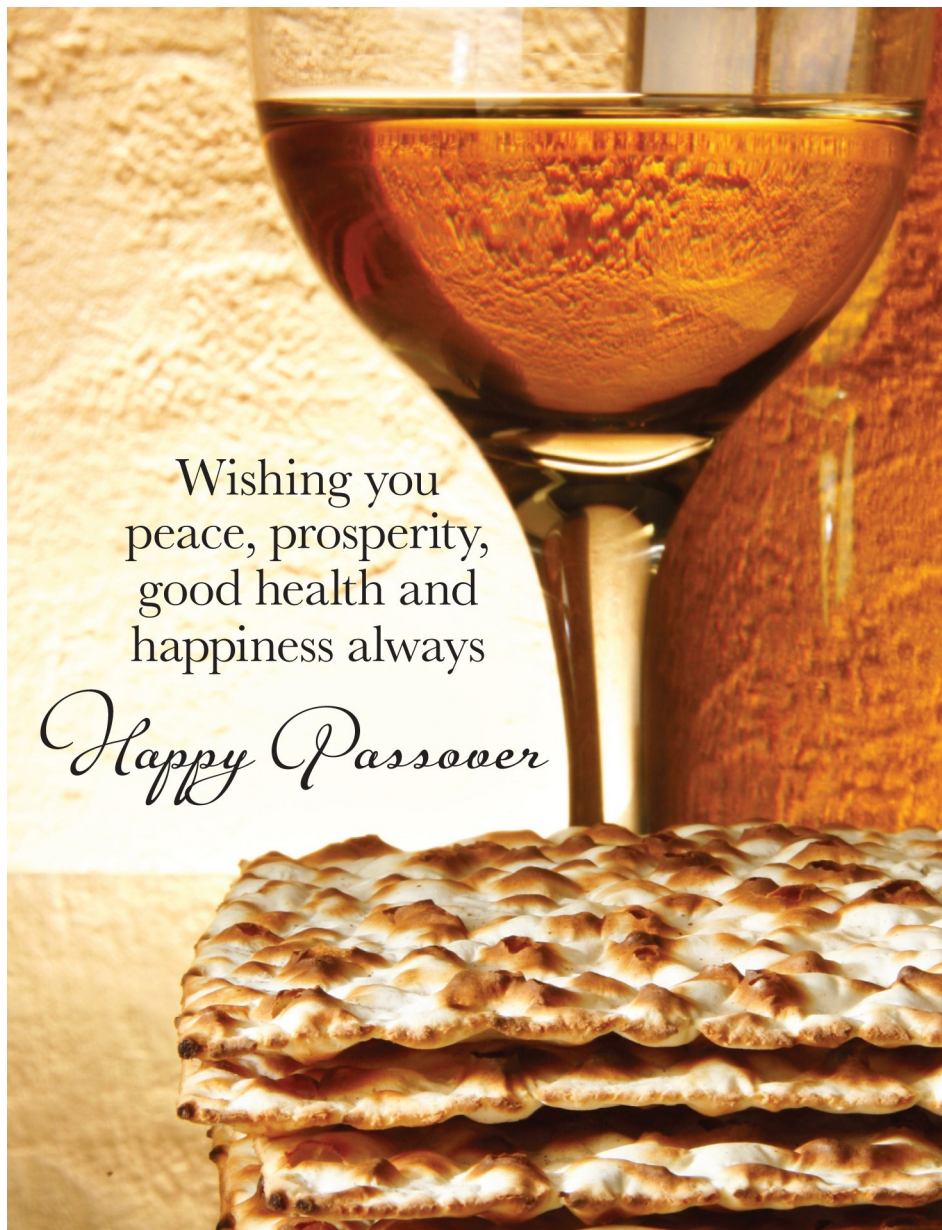
On May 20th, Bob will weave information about the importance of storytelling in Jewish tradition, and what makes a story "Jewish," into stories from different religious, cultural and ethnic origins. He will also focus on our value for this year and share stories about compassion.

This is an event you won't want to miss. Free to members, \$5 for non-members in advance. RSVP to oneg@betmish.org by May 14 for this unique opportunity.



Community News? Let Us Know!

Did you get a promotion? Has a new niece or nephew arrived lately? Did you solve the entire Sunday *New York Times* crossword, in ink? Send any cause for a *mazel tov* to secretary@betmish.org.



Wishing you
peace, prosperity,
good health and
happiness always

Happy Passover



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301-230-7200



Michael Mandel to Resume Leadership of Tach'shitim

Choir's Next Performance Will Be at High Holy Days

Michael Mandel has graciously agreed to return to the position of artistic director of *Tach'shitim*, our congregation's choir. He was the director in the choir's early years, and the last time he led it was at High Holy Days 1992, before leaving the Washington area for education as a cantor. He was invested as a cantor by the Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, in June 1997.

When he came back to Washington, he rejoined the choir, lending his beautiful voice to the group and to many cantorial solos at our services. We are lucky to benefit from his inspiring leadership of our choir in meaningful participation in our religious services, not to mention his talent as a composer and arranger of Jewish liturgical music.

From 1993 to 2011, *Tach'shitim* was led by Michael Resnick, who took the choir to new heights of performance, including more significant roles in our services at High Holy Days and throughout the year, concerts before other audiences in the Washington and Baltimore areas and at the International GALA Choruses Festival, and the recording of a CD, *Family and Friends*. Michael was thanked for his long, successful tenure at the synagogue's 36th Anniversary Service in December 2011, at which he led the choir in a post-service concert.

2012 is a year of transition for *Tach'shitim*. Besides the change in artistic director, we are realigning many of the other administrative responsibilities within the choir. In addition, we hope to integrate some new choir members (see accompanying article about auditions). Given all this change, we have decided not to perform as a choir until the High Holy Days. This will allow us to focus on providing a quality and spiritual participation in the High Holy Days services, and it will give ample time for the new voices in *Tach'shitim* to learn a great deal of music.

However, service leaders are always welcome to request participation in their services by one or more members of *Tach'shitim* by directly contacting those individuals. The decision to perform, as well as any other details, will be between the service leaders and the choir members (as opposed to it being a decision or performance by the choir).

Choir to Hold Auditions This Month

Tach'shitim—jewels—is the Bet Mishpachah choir, which has enhanced the beauty of our services for several decades. *Tach'shitim* is looking to add new jewels to our group. With our new artistic director, Michael Mandel, we are looking to the future and would like to add some new voices.

Would you be interested in singing with us? We would like to hear from anyone interested in joining *Tach'shitim*. While the ability to sight-read music is not a requirement, a love of Jewish choral music, a pleasant voice, and the ability to blend in vocally and personally are. We will be holding auditions on Wednesday, April 18, and Wednesday, May 2, at 7:30pm in Washington (metro-accessible location).

Please contact Carl Spatz (e-mail: cspatz60@yahoo.com; home: 202-966-8382; cell: 202-345-6491) for more information and location specifics.

Queen Esther Fund Exceeds Goal!

Bet Mishpachah held its annual Purim service on the evening of March 7 at the JCC. Several congregants arrived in full costume, with wigs, makeup, and even penguin suits in full display, making a joyous event even more entertaining.

In the midst of all the fun, this year's congregational value, the power of compassion, was also in full display, as we passed the proverbial hat for donations to this year's recipient of the Queen Esther Fund, the House of Ruth. The House of Ruth is a leading provider of services to women and their families who have suffered from homelessness and domestic violence, helping them to establish safe and stable lives.

We are very pleased to announce that we have surpassed our goal of \$1,000, raising \$1,250 for this worthy organization! It's a testimony to the kindness and social awareness of our congregation that we could combine an evening of fun and levity with a consciousness of our responsibility to be good Jews and good human beings. Thank you to all who participated in the Purim service and those who gave to the Queen Esther Fund!



Tz'daka and Mishloach Manot Updates: Thank You!!!

In the last months, Bet Mishpachah gave its yearly *tz'daka* of \$500 via the Krampf Fund to one local and one international organization. We also donated a symbolic tree at the *Tu b'Shvat* Seder in February (\$27). In March, Bet Mishpachah members pledged and donated very generously a total of \$1,250 to the Queen Esther fund at the Purim service!

We would like to share with you a bit the work of the four organizations that received our support.

The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) is the only Washington, DC metro area service organization solely dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Founded in 1984, SMYAL is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Their mission is to promote and support self-confident, healthy, productive lives for LGBTQ youth ages 13-21 as they journey from adolescence into adulthood. To fulfill the mission, they work on five focus areas: (1) Life Skills & Leadership Development, (2) Counseling & Support, (3) Health & Wellness Education, (4) Safe Social Activities, and (5) Community Outreach and Education.

<http://www.smyal.org>

From Risk to Opportunity in Jerusalem sponsors Music education for Children of Ethiopian descent. The Ethiopian community still faces tremendous challenges to its integration in the Israeli society; Ethiopians as a group rate among the poorest in Israel; the rate of children who drop out of school and end up with drug and petty crime problems is saddening. This music project offers gifted children, who could never afford a music lesson, funding in high quality music education like lessons with an instrument, theory, funding of an instrument. Children gain self confidence and become visible as successful artists in the Israeli society. In 2011, three of the participants of the program have been accepted in the highly prestigious Jerusalem Academy of Arts High School. For more information: <http://bit.ly/z4uLeV>.

New Israel Fund/Green Environment Fund: Shatil (NIF's action-arm) works to build environmental activism in under-represented areas such as development towns, Arab towns and other areas in Israel's periphery, where residents often lack the resources to move to less hazardous locations and lack political influence to challenge polluters or press for enforcement of government procedures and regulations. Shatil also works to expand activities that address the link between environmental justice and public health as well as economic and social issues and spheres, to strengthen the capacity of Israel's environmental organizations, to empower the public to play an active role in protecting the environment, and to facilitate the development of coalitions advocating for environmental protection.

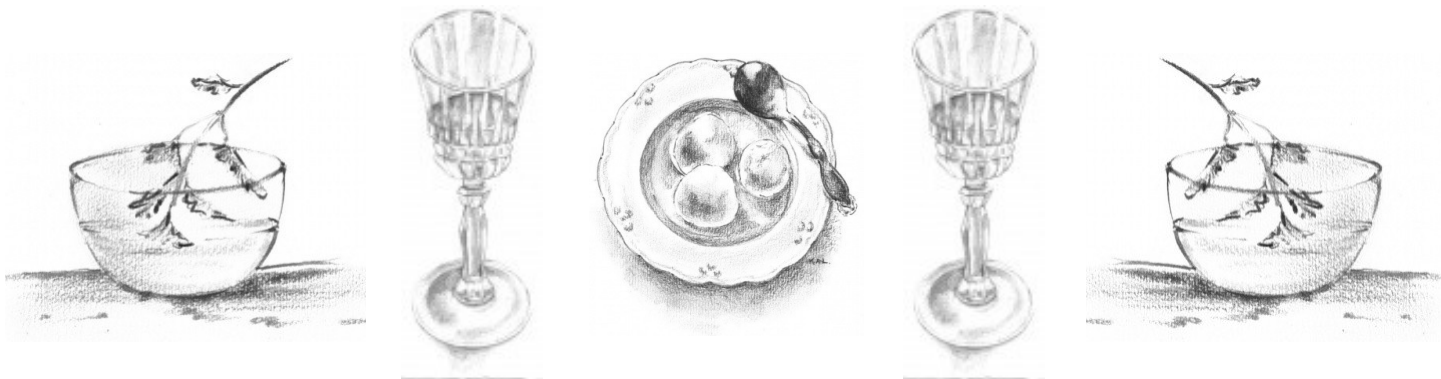
<http://www.nif.org/issue-areas/green-environment-fund>

House of Ruth in Washington DC: Founded in 1976, the House of Ruth helps women, children and families in greatest need, with very limited resources build safe, stable lives, and achieve their highest potential. At House of Ruth, women, children and families heal from lifetimes of traumatic abuse. The project provides counseling, therapy for children and help with housing. According to staff, "seven to ten outcome goals are set for each program, and we look at critical indicators of progress such as the percentage of women who sustain psychiatric stability and sobriety; the percentage of women who have healthy, nurturing relationships with their children; and the percentage of children who are emotionally stable and practicing social skills."

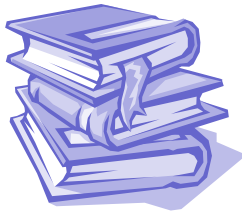
<http://www.houseofruth.org>

Thank you again, Bet Mishpachah!
Jutta and Bruce, SA/SJ chairs

If you like to participate in planning and choosing social justice and action activities, please come to our next meeting on April 16th 7.30pm. Contact yuttab@verizon.net or brucehorowitz@compuserve.com



Have You Read a Good Book Lately? Tell Us About It!



The High Holy Day services and study session showed that, as a congregation, we are reading a variety of wonderful and interesting things.

Have you read a really interesting or challenging book on GLBTQ or Jewish themes? Want to tell your congregational family about it? We want to publish your review.

Your review should include your name (as you'd like it to appear) and the title and author of the book. Tell us: what led you, as a GLBTQ Jew or ally, to read this book? What was the most important thing you learned? Why should members of our congregation read it? Feel free to structure your review in a way that works for you. Your review should not exceed 400 words.



Please submit your review to news-editor@betmish.org, by the 10th of the month; after any necessary edits, your review will be printed the next month, or as soon thereafter as there is room.

Communications Maven Wanted



Do you enjoy working with social media, web sites and e-newsletters? Are you interested in shaping the communications policies of the congregation? If so, we have a job for you.

Our first Vice President for Communications, Mary Arras, is stepping down for personal reasons, and the Board would like to find her successor. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Sarajane Garten at president@betmish.org.



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, to Bet Mishpachah, Department 0520, Washington, D.C. 20073-0520.

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- ✧ Jerald Goldberg, Past Presidents *Oneg Shabbat*

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- ✧ Tiffany and Company, Employer Match - Jeffrey Kaye
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- ✧ Eileen Zonar, in memory of her beloved daughter, Louise Zonar

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Member Yartzeits

Announced on Friday, April 6

Barbara Kohn Katz	April 6	Sister of Margy Kohn
Rebecca Sharp	Nisan 15	Grandmother of Murray Woldman
John H. Brenner	April 8	Father of Daniel Brenner
Alan Cohen	April 9	Uncle of Beth Cohen
Arthur Dwartz	Nisan 17	Grandfather of Paula Morris
J. Lloyd Elsten	April 10	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Sonya Gross	April 9	Aunt of Mark
Sylvia E. Liff	April 10	Mother of Diane Liff
Bracha Apelberg	Nisan 18	Grandmother of Eytan Apelberg
Edna Korn	April 10	Mother of Georgia Korn
Mary Madna	Nisan 18	Aunt of Al Munzer
Shirley Leish	April 10	Grandmother of Denise Leish
Simon Gordon	April 10	Uncle of Maxine Clane
Monica Lobo Filho Baruch	April 11	Member of Bet Mishpachah
B. Neal Klenke	April 11	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Manuel Less	Nisan 19	Father of Martin Less
Ida Snaider	Nisan 20	Mother of Warren Snaider

Announced on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14

Leland Manuel Reiner	April 13	Friend of Karl Schwartz
Sean Sebastian	April 13	Nephew of Denise Leish
Leah M. Potts	Nisan 22	Grandmother of Ruth Potts
Rumi Burnett	April 14	Mentor and friend of Elke Martin
Ouli Zucker	April 15	Brother of Yona Zucker
Abe H. Goldberg	April 16	Father of Jerald Goldberg
Abraham Cohen	April 16	Father of Larry Ira Cohen
Alfred Salomon	April 16	Brother-in-law of Eva Freund and Elke Martin
Debbi Willett	April 17	Friend of Jack Hillelsohn
Elsie Freund	April 17	Mother of Eva Freund, Mother-in-Law of Elke Martin

(Continued on page 14)

Member Yartzeits*(Continued from page 13)*

Donna Floyd	April 18	Cousin of Debra Floyd
Annie Singer	April 19	Grandmother of Michael Singer
Ann Friedman	Nisan 27	Mother of Barry Friedman

Announced on Friday, April 20

Morris Sobel	April 20	Grandfather of Carol Stern
Dolores K. Cohen	April 21	Mother of Keith Cohen
Glenn Neuman Rein	April 21	Partner of Morris Levitt
Marilyn Lubbock	April 21	Partner of Sarah Yedinsky
Miriam Londner	April 22	Mother of Hank Londner
Nikki Felch	April 22	Friend of Catherine Tarabochia
Rose Mendelson	Iyar 1	Grandmother of Barry Friedman
Lia Horowitz	Iyar 2	Mother of Emmanuel 'Bruce' Horowitz
Max Klane	April 24	Grandfather of Maxine Klane
Jacques Carle	April 24	Partner of Jack Hillelsohn
Flossie Kline	April 24	Godmother of Milton Stern
Saul Gass	April 25	Uncle of Eileen Greenberg
Manya Gass	April 25	Aunt of Eileen Greenberg

Announced on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28

Minnie Casel Lev	April 27	Grandmother of Larry Neff
Betty Saks	April 29	Mother of Rabbi Bob Saks
Issac Fox	Iyar 7	Grandfather of David Fox
Donald Bruce Schwartz	April 30	Brother of Karl Schwartz
Jerry Friedman	May 1	Member of Bet Mishpachah
Chick Gordon	May 2	Uncle of Warren Snaider
Michael Garcia	May 2	Friend of Howard Stark
Molly Dickson	Iyar 10	Aunt of Stuart Sotsky
David Youngman	Iyar 11	Uncle of Joel Wind

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 Rabbi Bob Saks, *Emeritus*301/864-1240 rabbibob@betmish.org
 Administrator: Larry Ferri office@betmish.org

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