

Policy on the Misheberach List and on Mesheberachs at Services of Adath Shalom Congregation

There does not seem to be any Halakhic issue about creating or retaining such a list, and, as some of the gabbaiim have noted, a written list carries privacy issues. We have no idea whether permission has been granted for the name to be mentioned or even whether the named individual might have changed his or her mind. There are also some philosophical issues about using the congregational Misheberach List for individuals who have permanent health issues. The gabbai will simply announce that it is time for misheberachs, and ask people who wish to mention someone's name to do so either aloud or just to him- or herself. (If we are holding virtual services, the gabbai will ask those who wish to speak aloud to unmute themselves for that moment.) Speaking the ill or injured person's name either aloud or quietly (traditionally along with his or her mother's name) is sufficient for the purpose of the prayer. If there is no individual who states an ill person's name, the Gabbai is not responsible for including that name. Responsibility is entirely in the members' hands.

In addition to the foregoing, two "special cases" offer opportunities for the gabbai to mention a name to be included in the general blessing:

- 1) a person who has been admirable and likely local;
- 2) a member who is very ill, or has been subject to a serious accident, provided that the individual or the individual's family has approved having the name mentioned.

It will be the responsibility of the president of Adath Shalom or the chair of the Bikkur Cholim Committee to make note of any such individuals and to inform the gabbai responsible for the service on any day when the prayer for those who are ill will be recited.

Both common courtesy and privacy considerations preclude saying the name of anyone as part of a misheberach unless the person, or someone close to him or her, has agreed to the naming. Finally, it deserves restating that a misheberach does not have to be said out loud in a congregation; it can be said quietly and privately without any words aloud without diminishing its authority.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on May 16,2021.