



The National Capital Mikvah
1308 28th St NW, Washington, DC 20007
(202) 342-5303
Info@dcmikvah.org
www.dcmikvah.org

December 16, 2014

Dear Friend of the National Capital Mikvah,

As I sat down to write this letter to you, I tried to decide whether this is the easiest or the most difficult letter I have ever written. It is both. Easy, because it is so obvious that without your financial help, our *mikvah* (Jewish ritual bath) will not be able to continue to provide service par excellence to the women of the Washington, DC community. Difficult, because I am writing to you so soon after the shocking events that took place here.

I would like to assure you, that the moment the leadership of the **National Capital Mikvah** suspected impropriety, we made certain that it was not repeated; we immediately contacted the authorities. We have protected our *mikvah* users and feel honored by the praise we have received for our actions. There is a special *zechut* (merit) for those who take care of a *mikvah*, and I invite you to take part by making a donation to facilitate the continuation of the good work done at the **National Capital Mikvah**.

Besides the psychological trauma, the horrific incident that took place at our *mikvah* has also caused unanticipated expenses from the *mikvah's* limited funds. To this end, I appeal to you, generous donors, to continue the superior service we provide the women of our community and visitors. They have so often complimented us for being welcomed into a bright, clean and well-stocked *mikvah*, staffed with kind and knowledgeable attendants.

In addition to board members and three trustees, the **National Capital Mikvah** has sixteen volunteer attendants who often take duty multiple nights a month to serve women using the *mikvah* to fulfill their *mitzvah* (commandment) of *taharat hamishpacha* (family purity.) Two volunteer schedulers work nonstop to slate appointments for about fifty women who use the *mikvah* each month.

In the aftermath of the shocking events, the Board took action in aiding the victims, confirming the continuing *kashrut* (Jewish legal certification) of the facility, restoring the trust of our users, and encouraging our users to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *taharat hamishpacha*. We quickly arranged for support sessions for the victims facilitated by Jewish Social Services Agency and Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse. Rabbanit Chana Henkin gave a *shiur* (lecture) on the role of women in Jewish religious life. We

The National Capital Mikvah, Inc. is a tax exempt, non profit organization as described
In section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code for 1984, as amended.

organized a yoga class for women. A renowned rabbi visited and thoroughly checked the *mikvah* to attest to its *kashrut* moving forward. A private security firm to verified that the privacy of our *mikvah* users is protected, we changed the lock code, and strictly control access to it.

In June 2015, the **National Capital Mikvah** will mark its 10th anniversary. Today we kick off a series of community programs to encourage further healing and Torah study. We will also work on physical renovations and updates to the facility necessary after ten years of daily use. All these activities will lead up to a **National Capital Mikvah** rededication event in summer 2015.

We ask for your financial support to make these plans a reality. To make your donation, please review the form featured on our website. I wholeheartedly thank you for supporting the **National Capital Mikvah** at this time of great need. Your generosity will ensure that you are an essential part of our ongoing efforts and accomplishments, which will continue to attest to our admired reputation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adela Renna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adela Renna
President of the Board of Directors
president@dcmikvah.org

P.S. Please keep checking your email inbox and our website www.dcmikvah.org for dates of our programs and other **National Capital Mikvah** updates.