

Dear Audrey,

I am happy to learn that Beth Sholom Congregation will be honoring David Balto at the Hope & Healing Gala for Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington this year. This is a well-deserved recognition for a caring man of faith!

In early 2020, my husband Alex's health became to deteriorate. My family and I enrolled him to receive hospice care at home. Alex was not able anymore to join Rabbi Herzfeld and others in prayer at Ohev Sholom synagogue. And then is when David jumped in to help. He visited my beloved Alex from February to May to pray with him, to share his recorded music prayers, and to bring him companionship. His visits brought light to Alex's eyes and support for me and my family.

On one occasion, he arrived when I was teaching a class to a small group of students. I introduced him and a delightful conversation started, with David telling the story of Esther and my students asking for more. I will never forget his teachings neither my students.

On May 7 of that year, the doctors asked us to prepare for Alex's departure. My son Mauricio softly sang his love to his father and David recited prayers, both holding Alex's hands until his last breath.

In David's honor, I have sent a donation to Soroka Medical Center and to Yeshivas Elimelech.

With appreciation,

Elena Tscherny