

December-February Minyan Times

Mornings (times constant)*

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
*Except December 25, January 1	8:30 am
*Except December 29, January 26, February 24, 25	6:30 am

Shabbat.....9:00 am

Evenings (times constant)

Monday- Thursday.....	7:00 pm
*Except December 25.....	4:20pm
*Except January 1	4:25pm
*Except January 6	4:15pm

Evenings (times vary)

Sunday, Dec 14.....	4:15 pm
Friday, December 19, 26.....	4:20 pm
Shabbat, December 20.....	4:05 pm
Sunday, December 21.....	4:20 pm
Thursday, December 25.....	4:20pm
Shabbat, December 27.....	4:10 pm
Sunday, December 28.....	4:25 pm
Thursday, January 1.....	4:25 pm
Friday, January 2.....	4:25 pm
Shabbat, January 3.....	4:15 pm
Sunday, January 4.....	4:30 pm

Tuesday, January 6.....	4:15 pm
Friday, January 9.....	4:35 pm
Shabbat, January 10.....	4:25 pm
Sunday, January 11.....	4:35 pm
Friday, January 16.....	4:40 pm
Shabbat, January 17.....	4:30 pm
Sunday, January 18.....	4:45 pm
Friday, January 23.....	4:50 pm
Shabbat, January 24.....	4:40 pm
Sunday, January 25.....	4:55 pm
Friday, January 30.....	5:00 pm
Shabbat, January 31.....	4:50 pm
Sunday, February 1.....	5:05 pm
Friday, February 6.....	5:10 pm
Shabbat, February 7.....	5:00 pm
Sunday, February 8.....	5:10 pm
Friday, February 13.....	5:15 pm
Shabbat, February 14.....	5:05 pm
Sunday, February 15.....	5:20 pm
Friday, February 20.....	5:25 pm
Shabbat, February 21.....	5:15 pm
Sunday, February 22.....	5:30 pm
Friday, February 27.....	5:35 pm
Shabbat, February 28.....	5:25 pm
Sunday, March 1.....	5:40 pm

E-Mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com

Web Site: BethDavid.org

CHAI LINE

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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME L, ISSUE 2

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

DECEMBER-FEBRUARY 2008-9/5769

From the Rabbi

In the beginning, the Almighty created light after infinite darkness. This light brought life into the world. Unfortunately, since the Creation there have been generations of darkness: the generation of the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the slavery in Egypt, the Holocaust in our generation, etc.

At the time of receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai, God brought a spiritual light into the world in order to chase away the darkness. During the generations since God gave us this spiritual light, evil people tried to extinguish this precious light. Whenever we study Torah that we received on Mt. Sinai, we literally increase the light of the Torah, which shields us from the darkness that our enemies create.

However, there is also a physical light that we ignite -- the light of *Emunah* in *Hashem*: lighting candles on Friday night, the *Ner Tamid* in the synagogue, the *Havdalah* candle, *Neshama* candles on Yom Kippur, the *Yahrzeit* candle before *Yizkor*, etc. On the holiday of Chanukah we increase this light exponentially when we add another candle every night. Let's make sure that we will continue to light these holy candles for many generations to come. Happy Chanukah.

Rabbi Aminadav Adamit

From the President

When December comes around my first thoughts are of Chanukah. It is such fun to prepare for this holiday: menorahs, beautiful candles, gifts, special foods, and getting together with family and friends.

The children are the big focus, I am sure it is the favorite holiday for most children. This year is different for me, when I think of celebrating my thoughts immediately go to the horrific killings in Mumbai and my joy is extinguished.

How difficult it is to prepare for a holiday when so many people are grieving. Burying my emotions is not an easy task for me, but then I look at my grandchildren and I realize that we have obligations and we cannot indulge ourselves even when we feel the necessity.

Chanukah is the festival of light and we certainly need light in these times of darkness, so with my heavy heart I will make Chanukah all that it is meant to be for my family. To my Beth David Family, I wish you all a beautiful holiday.

Saba Wiesner

Calendar of Events

Dec. 22-29 (Mon.-Mon.).....	Chanukah
Jan. 10 (Sat.).....	Monthly Shabbat luncheon
Jan. 13 (Tues.).....	Afternoon Sisterhood meeting
Feb. 11 (Wed.).....	Sisterhood meeting 7:30 pm
Feb. 14 (Sat.).....	Monthly Shabbat luncheon

Thanks to the Sponsors of this issue

Arline & Marvin Kutz in memory of our parents
Saul & Jeanette Sanders and Louis & Rose Kutz

In memory of **Jack Serkin** whose 83rd birthday would have been the 8th day of Chanukah

Marcy and Gabi Yonaty in memory of **Rita Rozen**

Special Sponsors Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy in honor of their 21st anniversary

Give Double Chai

Getting the *ChaiLine* to you six times a year requires extra effort by a few people. We gladly exert this extra effort so that you, our fellow congregants and friends, can keep up on what is going on at Beth David Synagogue and what members of the Beth David family are up to. Remember, once you have been a member of Beth David, you are always considered a member of the Beth David family.

To those who have helped get the *ChaiLine* to you by sponsoring an issue, both past and present, Thank you. If you would like to join their ranks, a donation of \$36.00 for sponsorship, \$180.00 for being a **Special Sponsor**, or \$18.00 for us to print a thank you, arriving at the Shul office before the next deadline (February 22, 2009) will be most appreciated. Happy Chanukah to all.

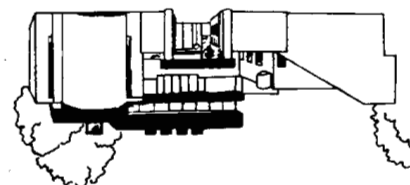
Marlene Serkin

E-Mail Address Please

If you have not already done so, please call in your E Mail address to the synagogue office, 722-1793, or send the address to bethdavid@stny.rr.com. Thank you.



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Sisterhood

Sisterhood, as usual, is having a busy season. Our Paid-Up Membership dinner was a lovely evening thanks to the many wonderful women whose efforts made the evening a success. This was followed up by the rummage sale chaired by Marlene Serkin.

The Gift Shop will be represented at the JCC Book Fair December 7. December 11 is InterSisterhood night with Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Our Sisterhood is hosting at Beth David and the JCC Yiddish group will present "Godilocks Apologizes -- a Yiddish Musical." This is yet to occur as I write but it promises to be an evening of great fun and friendship. Thanks to everyone who has committed much time and effort for this event, especially to Dora Polachek who has so ably and enthusiastically coordinated the various aspects of the evening. And another thank you to Suzanne Triebwasser for her beautiful flyer.

Sisterhood mourns the loss of Jack Serkin whose devotion to the shul was surpassed only by his devotion to our very own Marlene.

May the bright flames of Chanukah candles shining in each of our households truly be beacons of light to all the nations and people everywhere and bring the miracle of peace, love and togetherness to all. Happy Chanukah!

Claire Ladenheim, Sisterhood President

Seudah Shlishit

I would like to thank Shlomo and Stella Weiss and Charles and Paula Rubin for recently sponsoring *Seudah Shlishit*. Thank you for supporting these meals not only for the *gashmiut* (food), but also for the *ruchniut* (the spirit).

If you are interested in sponsoring a *Seudah Shlishit*, please call me at 773-8980.

Yasher Koach

Rummage Sale Report

I want to thank all of you who donated merchandise and/or volunteered your time to help out at the rummage sale held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday November 23-25, 2008.

Set up was done on Saturday evening with a great crew of men and women coming in at 6:30 pm. They were so efficient that we finished by 8:30 pm. Thanks go to Shirley Lash and her daughter Krista, son-in-law Gene, and grandson Jacob who came in and emptied the rummage room 5:30 Saturday night.

Thanks to the following for helping set up, clean up and working at the sale, we couldn't do it without you:

Lil Sommer	Valerie Preston	Cathy Velenchik
Ruth Goldstein	Marcy & Gaby Yonaty	Claire Ladenheim
Meryl Sasnowitz	Judy Silber	Marie Werner
Lilly Wolf	Susan & Michael Wright	Marti Klionsky
Marilyn Bell	Lillian Zodikoff	

Thank you, also, to Nancy Nagel, Inna Meecham, Kelly Stevens, and Darlene Cady, customers, who come in for every sale and help us set up. Darlene also comes in to help clean up after the sale.

Thank you,
Marlene Serkin, Rummage Sale Chairwoman

Recipe

Potato Knishes

This recipe is a specialty of Lilly Wolfs. It was served at the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Elisa Alweis, and at the Sisterhood Paid-Up Dinner.

Ingredients: 4 pounds potatoes, 4 large onions, minced, Oil for frying, Salt, Pepper, a little flour, 1 egg, 2 boxes frozen puff pastry sheets

Put puff pastry boxes into refrigerator a few hours to soften. Lay wax paper on baking pans. Peel, cut, and boil potatoes in salted water until done. Drain them, put into a large bowl, and mash. Fry the onions in a large amount of oil (don't be shy) until well browned. Mash the onion and oil into the mashed potatoes. Divide the mixture into eight sections.

Put a scant amount of flour on a pastry board and do the same to the top of one dough sheet on the board. With a rolling pin, slightly thin out the sheet of puff pastry dough. Cut it in half widthwise. Set one piece aside. Spread one section of the potato mixture onto the sheet on the board. Roll up jellyroll style from the longer side. Tuck ends in gently.

Lay the roll onto the wax paper and score into eight sections with a knife (not completely through). You can freeze the rolls at this point. Cover the pans tightly. When ready to serve, defrost on the counter two to three hours then bake as below.

To bake: make a wash with one beaten egg and one teaspoon of water. Brush over the rolls. Bake uncovered at 400 for 15 to 20 minutes until golden, (yes, bake on the waxpaper)

Cut the scored sections. Serve warm with mustard.

Mitzvah Fund

Charney Oppenheim, 723-6205

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Les & Barbara Bank on the engagement of their son, David
Dan & Hadassah Gold on the birth of their daughter, Tziona Chava
Sam & Claire Ladenheim on the marriage of their granddaughter, Naomi
Dan & Eileen Miller on the bar mitzvah of their son, Alex
Mr & Mrs Pollack *l'shana tova* in your new home
Alan & Janet Raphael on the birth of their granddaughter
Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim on the birth of their grandson, Mendel
Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim on the marriage of their daughter, Chani
Shlomo & Stella Weiss on the birth of their son, Gavriel
Michael & Susan Wright on the marriage of their son, Jeremy

Refuah Shelema to:

Ellen Green	Gail Greener	Susan Hubal
Sam Ladenheim	Charney Oppenheim	Michael Wright

Condolences to:

The family of David Brown
Marion Morell in memory of her father
The family of Jack Serkin
Steve Sutter in memory of his mother

Beth David Family

Many life cycle events were observed by our Beth David Families. Babies are our future, and we're thankful for the three born to our local members. Hadassah and Dan Gold welcomed a girl, Tziona Chava, into their family in September. Our extended Beth David Family smiles when baby Tziona greets us in shul on Shabbat. A month after her arrival, Hadasa and Levi Slonim had a boy, Mendel, join their family. First time grandparents Rivky and Aaron Slonim are kvelling. Imagine, three generations living across the street from each other! Stella and Shlomo Weiss introduced a brother, Gabriel, to their children Shoshana, Sarah, and Avraham. How joyous it was to celebrate two *britot* in our town within the space of a week! May the families each continue to *shep nachas*, and may the babies each be blessed with good health until Bar/Bat Mitzvah, chuppah, and to 120!

We at Beth David were elated to share other *smachot* marking milestones in a child's life. Elisa Alweis celebrated her Bat Mitzvah amongst family and friends. She enlightened us with a discourse and slideshow on Israel's sources of water and its desperate need for the rare resource. This segued beautifully into Shemini Atzeret when we added a prayer for Israel's rain into our daily davening. Mazal Tov to Elisa, her parents Aaron and Miriam, her brothers Dan and Michael, and her grandparents Lily and Herman Wolf. Alex Miller wowed us at his Bar Mitzvah several weeks later as he conducted services. His laining and davening have us looking forward to his future participation. Mazal Tov to his parents Eileen and Dan Miller, and his siblings Brian, who led part of services, and Cara. We've watched both Elisa and Alex since they were born, and we've had the privilege of seeing them mature into caring young adults. May they and their families be continually blessed with *nachas*.

Kol Hakavod to Michael Alweis, who was named a Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. He placed among the top 5 percent of those who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test. Mazal Tov to Michael, his parents Miriam and Aaron Alweis and his grandparents Lily and Herman Wolf.

Lieutenant Colonel Jodi L. Volmert was honored at her recent retirement from the US Air Force. She won numerous awards and decorations during her military career, and we wish her well during this next phase of her life. Jodi's father, Jack Siskin, will gladly expand on her career highlights with you. Gerry Hubal celebrated a special birthday this fall. May he enjoy good health until 120!

Charney and Bob Oppenheim spent Yom Kippur and Sukkot with their children Elaine and Shai Mandel and their grandchildren in Jerusalem. Marcy and Gabi Yonaty toured Prague en route to visit their family in Israel, and Mark Budman bonded with his Israeli family as well. Ellen and Jerry Schachter chose to warm in the waters off the coast of Italy, and Harold and I spent time in Los Angeles with our children Rochie and Marc Sommer and with our grandchildren. Having experienced a 5.6 scale earthquake in LA in August, and the stench and soot of uncontrolled fires there in November, I have to say I'm glad to call Binghamton home.

Refuah shelema to Susan Hubal, Arline Kutz, Adina Ofek, Charney Oppenheim, Saba Wiesner, and Michael Wright.

With great sadness I mention the passing of Sally Sutter, mother of Steve Sutter; Rudolph Stern, father of Marion Morell; Linda Edison, wife of Sheldon Edison, and Martin Karp, father of Jonathan Karp. May Steve and Marcia Sutter and children Andrea and Jonathan; Marion and Shmuel Morell; Sheldon Edison and son Ahron; and Jon Karp and Gina Glassman, and their children Jacqueline and Isaac, know of no more sorrow.

We also lost a longtime member and friend, Jack Serkin, husband of Marlene Serkin. Part of Jack's life mission was helping Beth David, Chabad and Hillel Academy. In addition to his professional career with its demanding schedule, he was always available for his beloved shul and school. May Marlene, and her sons David, Stuart, and Paul, find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

This is my Fiftieth Beth David Family column. What began as a trial run never stopped. As Mama Cass Eliot used to say, "...and the beat goes on."

CHAILINE -- Beth David Synagogue Binghamton, NY --

Please remember, that without your input there is no news. Contact me at (607) 797-5458 or msasnowitz@stny.rr.com to let me know what's happening in your family. May the glow of the Chanukah lights brighten your winter evenings and warm your hearts.

Meryl Sasnowitz

Contributions

General Fund from:

Barbara & Jack Zable - In honor of Gerry Hubal's Birthday
Ilene Pinsker - In honor of Elisa Alweis's Bat Mitzvah
Sue Krause - Honor of Rabbi Ami Mrs. Sarah Lynn Adamit
Carol Hertz & Howard Schwartz- Mazel tov on the birth of Alan & Janet Raphael's new granddaughter Isabella
Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz - In memory of Steve Sutter's mother
Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz - In memory of Marion Morell's father
James and Carol Engel Mason - In memory of Barry Raff
Connerton & Berti Attorneys - In memory of Stephen Sutter's mother
Peg, Bob & Ryan Swarts - In memory of Stephen Sutter's mother

In memory of Jack Serkin

Seymour & Naomi Staiman	Melvin & Claire Shefftz
Herman & Lilly Wolf	Phyllis Ansell & Matt Paushter
Cathy Valenchek & Chaim Joy	Bob & Maria Kutz
Elaine Bollinger	Shirley & Gil Fein
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Marti Klionsky	Susan & Gerry Hubal
Gary & Madeline Miller	Dina & Yosef Cotton
Honey & Rachel Esserman	Carol Herz
Claire & Sam Ladenheim	Sheldon & Linda Edison
Larry & Rita Bleier	Robert Berg
Gloria Lees	Eleanor Bernstein
Gary & Madeline Miller	Aniko & Andy Sarkany & Family
Arieh Ullmann	Jerry & Ellen Schachter

Prayer Books by:

Marilyn Bell in memory of Jack Serkin
Ruth & Howard Buschman in memory of Jack Serkin

Shul Beautiful to:

Gerry Hubal in honor of his 70th birthday from Mort & Brenda Levy
Condolences to the family of Jack Serkin from the Goldman family
Condolences to the family of Jack Serkin from Sam & Claire Ladenheim
Condolences to the family of Jack Serkin from Irwin & Judy Simon
Condolences to the family of Jack Serkin from Lillian Zodikoff and David Zodikoff

Thank You

I want to say thank you to all those who brought food to the house, offered messages of condolence, helped make the minyan, made charitable donations in Jack's name, came to the funeral, and paid *shiva* calls.

Thank you, also, to the members of the Chevra Kadisha and those who did the *shmira* (watching). It was most comforting to know all the right things were done in the right way.

Knowing so many people care has helped me and my family deal with Jack's passing.

Marlene Serkin

Many thanks to all the wonderful Beth David people for your cards, calls and contributions made for my recovery from recent surgery. Your warmth and concern is truly appreciated.

Samuel Ladenheim

Chanukah Customs & Practices

When: Chanukah begins on Sunday, December 21st at night. The last candle is lit on Sunday night, December 28th and the holiday ends at sunset on Monday, December 29th.

Work: is permitted on Chanukah (except for Shabbat). Women have a custom not to work for the first 30 minutes after the candles are lit.

Food: Holiday meals are not required, but we do have a custom to celebrate with special meals. Some people eat dairy on Chanukah, there is a custom to partake of latkes and jelly donuts. Children have a custom to play dreidel and other games related to Chanukah.

Special Prayers: We add *al hanissim* in Grace after meals and the *amidah*. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. We recite *hallel* and a special Torah reading each morning. On the Shabbat that coincides with Chanukah we read from three Torah scrolls, the first the weekly portion of *Meeketz*, the second for Rosh Chodesh, and the third for Chanukah, and there is a special *Haf-tarah* for Chanukah. Sunday, December 28 is also Rosh Chodesh, and we will read from two Torah scrolls.

Candle lighting: We light one oil lamp or candle on the first night, adding an additional candle each night, until we light eight candles on the last night. It is customary to first light a *Shamash*, a helper candle, from which we light the rest. Candles should be large enough, or use sufficient oil, for the lights to remain burning for at least 30 minutes.

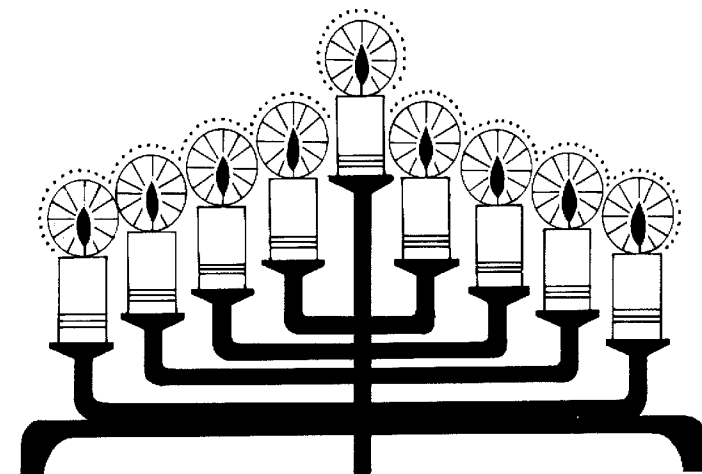
Placement: Our custom is to place the *chanukiah* by a window that faces the street. If not placed by the window, it should be placed by the main house door, opposite the mezuzah.

When do we light: Candles should be lit after nightfall (5:20 pm), or as soon thereafter as possible, but no later than dawn. In emergency situations candles may be lit earlier on condition that there is enough oil or large candles to remain lit until at least 5:55 pm. Please consult the rabbi.

How do we light: We place the first candle on the right side of the *chanukiah* as we face it, and add each new candle to its left. We light the *Shamash*, recite the two *b'rachot* (three on the first night) as found in the siddur, and kindle from left to right. The *Shamash* is placed in the *chanukiah* separated from the other candles. It is customary to recite *haneirot halalu* and sing *maoz tzur* following the lighting.

Shabbat and Chanukah: Friday night, December 26th we light six candles (plus the *shamash*). Chanukah candles must be lit before Shabbat candles, before 4:20 pm. Enough oil or large candles must be used so that they remain lit until at least 5:50 pm. On Saturday night, December 27th we must light after Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:20 pm. It is customary to recite *havdalah* at home before lighting the Chanukah candles.

Travelers: If you are on the road, you are still required to light Chanukah candles. Please consult the rabbi for details and how you can observe the mitzvah.



High Holiday Thank You

Todah Rabbah to:

Gabi Yonaty and Steve Feuer for preparing the succah

The Religious Committee for changing the Torah covers and Ark curtains, and overseeing the services

The women of Sisterhood for supplying and presenting the kiddushim, children's lunch, break the fast, child-care arrangements and setting out candles for those who wished to *bench light* at shul

Paula and Charles Rubin for supplying the kichel for the kiddushim, in memory of their son, Steven

The Chevra Kadisha for sponsoring the Shmini Atzeret Kiddush

Marcy and Gabi Yonaty for supplying the apples for Simchat Torah

Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz for supplying the candy bars for Simchat Torah

Shirley Lash for all she did to help the holidays go smoothly, from the initial mailings, to child care, to clean-up

Steven and Dora Feuer for polishing the silver crowns of the Torah scrolls

Dan Gold for the seating arrangements

Meryl Sasnowitz for reading the Yizkor list

Saba Wiesner for supplying the plants by the bima.

Please Clip and Save

Beth David Funds

Fund	Donation	Contact
Mitzvah Fund	\$2.50	Charney Oppenheim -723-6205
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Ansell Tikun Torah Fund	Shul Office -722-1793
Siddur(Prayer Book)	\$35.00	Shul Office -722-1793
Chumash	\$60.00	Shul Office -722-1793
Gemorrah	\$75.00	Shul Office -722-1793
Shabbat Luncheon	Shul Office -722-1793
Seudah Shlishit	Rabbi Adamit - 773-8980
Shabbat Kiddush	Meryl Sasnowitz -797-5458
To schedule use of kitchen --	Hadassah - 772-8410
To schedule use of Mikvah --	Susan - 772-8576

Happy Chanukah



Tzedekah boxes

Beth David *Tzedekah* boxes are available for one and all. Please call Meryl Sasnowitz (797-5458) and she will see that you receive one. When your box is ready to be emptied, you can call Meryl or bring it into the shul office. A receipt will be issued for the amount in the box.

Please Note

When making a donation to the synagogue, in honor of or in memory of someone, please keep in mind that a **minimum** donation of \$5.00 **per name** is required if you wish the family to receive notification of the contribution.