

December-February Minyan Times

Mornings (times constant)*

Sunday.....	8:30 am
Monday – Friday.....	6:40 am
*Except November 26, December 25, January 1.....	8:30 am
*Except December 16, 17, February 15.....	6:30 am
Shabbat.....	9:00 am

Evenings (times constant)*

Monday- Thursday.....	7:00 pm
*Except November 2.....	4:20pm

Evenings (times vary)

Thursday- Friday, November 26-27.....	4:20 pm
Shabbat, November 28.....	4:05 pm
Sunday, November 29.....	4:20 pm
Friday, December 4, 11.....	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 5, 12, 19.....	4:05 pm
Sunday, December 6, 13.....	4:15 pm
Friday, December 18, 25.....	4:20 pm
Sunday, December 20.....	4:20 pm
Shabbat, December 26.....	4:10 pm
Sunday, December 27.....	4:10 pm
Friday, January 1.....	4:25 pm
Shabbat, January 2.....	4:15 pm
Sunday, January 3.....	4:30 pm
Friday, January 8.....	4:35 pm
Shabbat, January 9.....	4:20 pm
Sunday, January 10.....	4:35 pm
Friday, January 15.....	4:40 pm
Shabbat, January 16.....	4:30 pm

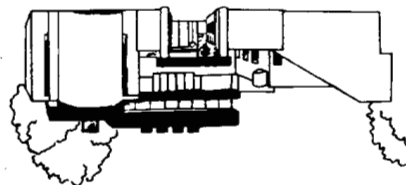
Sunday, January 17.....	4:45 pm
Friday, January 22.....	4:50 pm
Shabbat, January 23.....	4:40 pm
Sunday, January 24.....	4:55 pm
Friday, January 29.....	5:00 pm
Shabbat, January 30.....	4:45 pm
Sunday, January 31.....	5:00 pm
Friday, February 5.....	5:05 pm
Shabbat, February 6.....	4:55 pm
Sunday, February 7.....	5:10 pm
Friday, February 12.....	5:15 pm
Shabbat, February 13.....	5:05 pm
Sunday, February 14.....	5:20 pm
Friday, February 19.....	5:25 pm
Shabbat, February 20.....	5:15 pm
Sunday, February 21.....	5:30 pm
Thursday, February 25.....	5:20 pm
Friday, February 26.....	5:35 pm
Shabbat, February 27.....	5:25 pm
Sunday, February 28.....	5:00 pm

Calendar of Events

December 11.....	1st night of Chanukah
December 12.....	Shabbat Luncheon
December 17.....	InterSisterhood @ TC
December 27.....	10th of Tevet Fast
January 19.....	Sisterhood Luncheon Mtg.
February 10.....	Sisterhood Evening Mtg.



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CHAI LINE

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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

DECEMBER-FEBRUARY 2009-10/5770

From the Rabbi

Chanukah is known as the Festival of Lights. We light the menorah, give gifts, play dreidel and eat latkes. It is truly a fun time that, to the casual observer, seems to lack any deep religious significance. However, if we examine what happened during the period of the second Temple and why this holiday was established, we will find that it has a very serious and profound message with great religious significance.

The Jews in Israel had local autonomy, yet were under the domination of Greek-Syrian empire. In order to integrate the Jewish people into the empire, Antiochus ordered that Jews should be forbidden to practice circumcision, to observe the Shabbat, and announce Rosh Chodesh. If this decree were observed, the physical difference between Jew and non-Jew would be erased, the economy of Israel can be integrated into the greater empire's economy, and the unique cycle of the year that affected culture, tradition, and way of life – including when big holiday sales were held – would be eliminated. The Jew can then easily integrate into the prevailing culture. We can then become a nation among all nations, with no perceivable differences.

Many, if not most, Jews were willing to make these compromises in order to become accepted by the majority culture and favored assimilation in order to solve the Jewish problem. The Hashmonians, a minority of the population, insisted that we have a unique contribution to make in this world and that is only possible if we preserved our own way of life. They were willing to battle for their independence, and miraculously were victorious. We praise God for allowing us to survive, for otherwise there would no longer be a Jewish people.

The message of Chanukah is that there is a reason for us to remain unique. On the one hand we wish to be accepted among the peoples of the world, we want to participate in world culture on an equal footing with everyone else. On the other hand we must remain true to our traditions, our own culture, our own sense of morality and ethics. For our system of ethics and morals is derived from the Torah, from a higher authority, from God himself, that is not subject to the ebb and flow of societal mores and practices. And we want, and need, to export it to the rest of humanity. That is the definition of *tikun olam*.

For this reason, the mitzvah of lighting the chanukiah is at night, from dark until the marketplace is empty of people. The Talmud defines the marketplace being empty as the time when the non-Jewish woodcutters, who remain late in order to sell last minute supplies, have gone home. We are commanded to light the *chanukiyah* facing the street in order to publicize the miracle – specifically to the non-Jewish community.

The light of the menorah needs to shine from within us and influence those outside. When we allow the light of Torah to occupy our own souls, our own activities, our own sense of morality and ethics, our own lives, then the shining light will be able to influence others and improve the world.

May we merit fulfilling our unique mission.

~ Rabbi Zev Silber

From the President

Along with my responsibilities as president of Beth David I also took on the job of house chairperson, meaning that anything that goes wrong with the building is also my responsibility to repair or to replace.

The reason why I am writing about this is that over the past few weeks I have heard members say that we have not had a house chairperson in a long time. This could not be further from the truth. When I became president I realized that being in the house building business I had access to many contractors and much better pricing than anyone else. Michael is always behind the scene evaluating whatever problem comes up and how we can keep the costs to a minimum. Because of this situation I have saved the synagogue thousands of dollars. So yes, we do have a house chairperson who works at this job everyday.

In the last *ChaiLine* I had mentioned a surprise that Ellis Bros. Furniture had promised us at the shul. I don't know how many of you have seen the daily chapel lately but we have beautiful new red carpeting wall to wall. Not only did Robert Ellis give us the carpeting as a gift, but he also installed it at no cost to us.

We owe them great thanks for their kindness and generosity.

I would like to wish you all a beautiful Chanukah. ~ Saba Wiesner

TODAH RABAH

I want to thank you, the members of our congregation, for your wonderful response to my request for funds to pay for the needed roof repairs. Your donations, in the \$10,000 range, helped make this project possible.

I always knew that the Beth David family was special and you proved it.

~ Saba Wiesner, President

Thanks to the Sponsors

of this issue

Kathie Shelly with best wishes to everyone
Marie Werner wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah
Saba & Michael Wiesner in honor of the congregation
Marcy & Gaby Yonaty in memory of our dear friend, Rita Rozen

Special Sponsor

In memory of Dr. Robert C. Joy, father of Chaim Joy, by Chaim Joy & Cathy Velenchik

*E-Mail Address Please - Please call in your E Mail address to the synagogue office, 722-1793, or send the address to bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

Sisterhood

Sisterhood is in full swing now. We started the season with Marilyn Belford presenting a most interesting program about her theme quilts, some of which she brought to the meeting. Everyone attending found it fascinating and responded to her enthusiastic presentation. Some of her quilts were exhibited in the Fine Arts Building at Binghamton University as part of a Needlework and Quilt show. Marilyn, of course, has won awards and accolades all over the country for her magnificent quilts.

In October we enjoyed a delicious dinner for the Paid-Up Meeting, prepared by Susan Hubal. Susan's recipes from that evening appear elsewhere in this issue of the ChaiLine. Marlene Serkin collected many prizes, donated by local merchants, that were raffled off and a truly good time was had by all.

On a more serious note, Judy Silber discussed some of the Psalms, their derivations and interpretations at the November meeting. It was a very informative evening.

Our next program will be the Inter-Sisterhood in conjunction with Temple Concord. It will take place at Temple Concord on Thursday, December 17. The theme is "Get a Gift, Give a Gift," where we will get a chance to recycle some of the gifts we have received that we do not need and give someone else a chance to enjoy them. We will also be able to tour Chanukah House. I have gone to it every year. The exhibits change and it is always a wonderful treat to see. Refreshments will also be served. It promises to be a fun evening and for this we can thank Dora Polachek who has coordinated this program in her usual enthusiastic and competent way. Come and join us!!

Kudos to Marlene Serkin who conducted a successful rummage sale on November 8, 9 and 10. Marlene puts in a great deal of effort for this, with much time expended before the actual sale dates. These sales are our only fundraisers and probably could not occur without Marlene's expertise.

Chanukah is coming. Let the candle lights of your menorahs shine brightly in your homes and illuminate the world with their message of light and peace. Happy Chanukah to you all and your families.

Claire Ladenheim, Sisterhood President

Rummage Sale Report

Thanks again to all of you who donated merchandise and/or volunteered your time to help out at the rummage sale held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday November 8, 9, and 10, 2009.

Set up was done on Saturday night with a great crew of workers coming in at 6:30 pm. They were so efficient that we finished before 8:00 pm. Thanks go to Shirley Lash and her son-in-law, Gene Shoemaker, daughter, Kristie and grandson, Jacob, who came in and emptied the rummage room.

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

Judy Silber	Valerie Preston	Marilyn Bell
Lillian Sommer	Claire Ladenheim	Ilana Segal
Marie Werner	Toby & Harold Kohn	Lilly Wolf
Lillian Zodikoff	Susan & Michael Wright	Meryl Sasnowitz
Marti Klionsky	Ruth Buschman	Ayal Adamit
Sandy Boysick		

Thank you, also, to Nancy Nagel, Inna Meecham, and Kelly Stevens, customers, who came in and help us set up.

Thank you,
Marlene Serkin,
Rummage Sale Chairwoman

Give Double Chai

This is the 41st year of the Beth David *ChaiLine*. Previous to the ChaiLine, the newsletter of the Beth David Synagogue was called the Bulletin. A contest was held to rename the Bulletin and the winning name, by a unanimous decision of the judges, was submitted by Rita Rozen, of blessed memory.

Rita chose ChaiLine because the newsletter is a lifeline of the synagogue. In it you are kept up to date on the holidays, minyan times, news of our members, both past and present, the doings of Sisterhood and NCSY, and anything else pertaining to our shul.

In order to keep the ChaiLine coming into your homes without putting a strain on the synagogue budget, we need sponsors. Your donation of \$180 makes you a **Special Sponsor**, for \$36 you are a regular sponsor, and you can put in a thank you notice for \$18.

Send your contribution to the synagogue office before the next deadline (March 22, 2009) and you will be included in that issue.

Thank you for all contributions, past and present.

~ Marlene Serkin

Donors to Sisterhood Raffle

The following businesses were kind enough to donate gift cards to be used as prizes in the Sisterhood raffle, held at the Paid-Up meeting: **Bed Bath & Beyond • Price Chopper Market • Resciniti Cleaners • Riverside Optical • Weis Market • Tom's Coffee Cards & Gifts • Wegman's Market • Leroy Package Store • The Black and White Cookie Co. Please patronize these businesses. Thank you.**

Mitzvah Fund

Toby Kohn, 754-4297 or tgkohn@stny.rr.com

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Les & Barbara Bank on their son's marriage
Leon & Suzanne Feldhamer on the engagement of their daughter, Lulu to Nathaniel Dubin
Davida & Gavin Leibowitz on their new baby boy
Harold & Toby Kohn on the marriage of Toby's sister, Jeanne, to Mark Goldman
Dr. & Mrs. Morton Levy on the birth of their grandson
Charney & Bob Oppenheim on their new home and in thanks for all they've done for the Shul
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of their new grandson
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on their grandson, Yehuda, becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Steve & Marcia Sutter on their new grandson
Suzanne Triebwasser on beginning law school
Arieh Ullmann on being named president of the Jewish Federation of Broome County
Michael & Susan Wright on their daughter, Natania, becoming a PhD.
Michael & Susan Wright on their new grandson

Refuah Shelemah to:

Sarah Lynn Adamit	Susan Gilinsky	Howard Green
Lauran Greger	Claire Ladenheim	Sandy Lazaroff
Lynne Manasse	Frieda Samuels	Meryl Sasonowitz
Jerry Schachter	Doris Zolty	

Condolences to:

Sarah Lynn Adamit in memory of her father, Myer White
Hadassah Gold in memory of her son-in-law, Mark Weiss
Debbie Groner in memory of her father
Edith Hilton in memory of her husband, Murray
Chaim Joy in memory of his father, Robert Joy
Robert Mantica in memory of his father
Cheryl Sunness in memory of her father, David

Beth David Family

Here we are in mid-November and we're still mowing the lawn! This month brought record setting highs, and who's complaining? We'd rather not trade in our mowers for snow shovels.

Unforgettable were our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services thanks to the help of all those who put forth effort (see article *High Holiday Thank You*). Community friends joined our Beth David Family for services to hear Moshe Shmaryahu chant. This year's special treat included Moshe's son-in-law Relic, who traveled with him from Eretz Yisrael. The two of them added members' voices to their choir, and a rapt sanctuary stilled from the richness and depth of their voices.

Fall travelers included Cathy and Chaim Joy who toured the Philadelphia area, Lillian Sommer who visited Rachel and Avi Nadel and their children in Kohav Hashahar for Rosh Hashanah, and Ruth and Howard Buschman who spent time with their daughter Susie Erez and her family in Israel.

The Rudin family has been busy. Two new babies were born: a boy, Moshe Dov to Malka and Gavriel Rudin with grandparents Debbie and Hal Rudin, and a girl, Ariella Meira to Sarah Leah and Mordechai Sabo with grandparents Jackie and Mark Berkowitz. Great-grandparents Marion and Norman Rudin are *kvelling*. Add on to that the news that their grandson Andy, son of Sue and Louie Rudin of Teaneck, became engaged and the Rudins are bursting with joy! Mazal Tov to Toby and Harold Kohn on the marriage of Toby's sister Jeanne Kravitz to Mark Goldman, both of NYC. May the couple be blessed to build a *bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael*.

Susan and Michael Wright have a new grandson, Yochanan Chaim, son of Davida and Gavin Lebowitz of Toronto. Mazal Tov to the proud grandparents and to aunt (shul member) Kerry Wright. The Wrights are also *kvelling* over their daughter Natania's recent receipt of her PhD in Clinical Psychology. Marcia and Steve Sutter have a new granddaughter, Penelope Grace, born to Bethany and Jeremy Conner of Austin. Barbara and Les Bank added a new granddaughter to their family tree. Ella Ruby was born to Tanya and Will Wright of Michigan.

Miriasha, daughter of Sarah Klionsky and David Borsykowsky of Vermont celebrated her Bat Mitzvah among family and friends. Grandparents Marti Klionsky and Sy and Carole Klionsky are glowing with pride. Harold and I had the merit of two family simchas in the space of a few days. Abigail and Betzalel Lazarus of Clifton, NJ, brought a boy, Yisroel Avraham, into their family on October 27th. A few days later, on October 31st, our grandson Yehuda, son of Rochie and Marc Sommer of nearby Passaic, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.

Refuah shelemah to Laura Greger, Sandy Lazaroff, and Lynne Manasse.

With sadness I note the passing of Dorothy (Dottie) Cohn, a longtime member, and of Bob Joy, of Hanover, New Hampshire, father of Chaim Joy. May the Cohn children, Larry, Marvin, and Alan, and Cathy and Chaim Joy find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. We also mourn the loss of the son-in-law of Hadassah and Dan Gold and husband of Hospitalman (E3) Sarah Fosdick, 3rd Class Petty Officer Mark Weiss, who lost his life as a medic in the line of duty in Afghanistan. May Hadassah, Dan, and Sarah know no more sorrow.

As we light the Chanukah menorah, may we remember the history and the struggles of our people for freedom; and as the lights burn brightly, may our hearts pray for peace throughout the world.

~ Meryl Sasnowitz

Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank all the people who sent cards and called me when I was recuperating. It was very much appreciated.

~ Doris Zolty

Contributions

General Fund from:

Saba & Michael Wiesner in honor of Debbie Epstein's presidency of the Binghamton Philharmonic

Saba & Michael Wiesner in honor of Arieh Ullmann's presidency of the Jewish Federation

Saba & Michael Wiesner wishing Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz *mazel tov* on their many *simchas*

Saba & Michael Wiesner wishing Michael Wright *mazel tov* on being named to the 2010 edition of best Lawyers

Elaine Bollinger wishing Meryl Sasnowitz a speedy recovery

Maria & Robert Kutz wishing Meryl Sasnowitz a speedy recovery

Sheldon Edison wishing Meryl Sasnowitz a speedy recovery

Sheldon Edison wishing Sarah Lynn Adamit a speedy recovery

Sheldon Edison thanking the Silber family, the Sasnowitz family, the Ladenheim family, and the Hubal family

Susan & Gerry Hubal wishing Sarah Lynn Adamit a speedy recovery

Marti Klionsky wishing Meryl Sasnowitz a speedy recovery

Sy & Carole Klionsky wishing Israel Margolis a speedy recovery

Sy & Carole Klionsky wishing Meryl Sasnowitz a speedy recovery

Saba & Michael Wiesner wishing Laura Greger a speedy recovery

Herbert & Ethel Kurtzman in honor of Thomas Triebwasser

Sheldon Edison wishing condolences to the Adamit family, the Sommer family and the Sutter family

Dr. Irving Barnett in memory of Lillian Sommer's mother

Susan & Gerald Hubal in memory of Lillian Sommer's mother

Marti Klionsky to Claire Goldstein & Family in memory of her brother, Rabbi Joseph Kelman

Marti Klionsky in memory of Miriam Bloom

Marti Klionsky in memory of Mordechai Schreiberman, father of Debbie Groner

Marti Klionsky in memory of Else Stern, mother of Lillian Sommer

Marti Klionsky in memory of Hillard Rozen

Sy & Carole Klionsky in memory of Else Stern, mother of Lillian Sommer

Sy & Carole Klionsky in memory of Hillard Rozen

Michael & Saba Wiesner in memory of Robert Joy, father of Chaim Joy

Emily & Jeff Gunzenhauser in memory of Robert Joy, father of Chaim Joy

Frank Grundstrom & Cynthia Dickstein in memory of Dorothy Cohn

Saba & Michael Wiesner to Cheryl Sunness in memory of her father, David Sunness

Shul Beautiful to:

Sarah Lynn Adamit in memory of her father, Myer White, from Judy & Irwin Simon

Marilyn Belford with many thanks for the beautiful presentation at the meeting, from Sisterhood

Lillian Sommer in memory of her mother, Else Stern, from Judy & Irwin Simon

Mark Yonaty, in appreciation for all his help and support in coordinating the replacement of the Temple Concord roof and gutters, from Temple Concord

Seudah Shlishit

I would like to thank Suzanne and Tom Triebwasser 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*, Rabbi Aminadav Adamit