

December-February Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)*

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
*Except December 26, 27, January 25, February 23, 24	6:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am

EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday – Thursday	7:00 pm
*Except January 5:	4:15 pm

EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday, December 9, 16	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 10	4:00 pm
Sunday, December 11	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 17, 24	4:05 pm
Sunday, December 18, 25	4:20 pm
Friday, December 23	4:20 pm
Friday, December 30	4:25 pm
Shabbat, December 31	4:10 pm
Sunday, January 1	4:30 pm
Thursday, January 5	4:15 pm
Friday, January 6	4:30 pm
Shabbat, January 7	4:20 pm

Sunday, January 8	4:35 pm
Friday, January 13	4:40 pm
Shabbat, January 14	4:25 pm
Sunday, January 15	4:40 pm
Friday, January 20	4:45 pm
Shabbat, January 21	4:35 pm
Sunday, January 22	4:50 pm
Friday, January 27	4:55 pm
Shabbat, January 28	4:45 pm
Sunday, January 29	5:00 pm
Friday, February 3	5:05 pm
Shabbat, February 4	4:50 pm
Sunday, February 5	5:10 pm
Friday, February 10	5:15 pm
Shabbat, February 11	5:00 pm
Sunday, February 12	5:15 pm
Friday, February 17	5:25 pm
Shabbat, February 18	5:10 pm
Sunday, February 19	5:25 pm
Friday, February 24	5:30 pm
Shabbat, February 25	5:20 pm
Sunday, February 26	5:35 pm
Friday, March 2	5:40 pm
Shabbat, March 3	5:40 pm

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Web Site: BethDavid.org

CHAI LINE

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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME LIII, ISSUE 2

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

December-February, 2011/2012-5772

From the Rabbi

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of England, is one of the contemporary rabbis who I admire for his clarity of thought, breadth of vision and a source I frequently use for many of my sermons and talks. He recently spoke to the Chabad shelichim (emissaries) at their annual gathering and I listened to his speech on the Internet. I wish to share with you a thought that he expressed that has to do with Chanukah.

In the Talmud there is a disagreement regarding if it is permissible to use a Chanukah candle to light a second one. Rav holds that it is forbidden and Shmuel is of the opinion that is permissible. Explaining Rav's opinion, the Talmud suggests that when we use the mitzvah candle to light another we diminish the light of the first candle and this is inappropriate; to take away from the light of the mitzvah candle causes the mitzvah to be diminished. The Talmud does not explain Shmuel's opinion who permits it. Interestingly, this is one of three disagreements that the law is like Shmuel. Even though our custom is to use a shamash to light all the candles, the actual halacha is that it is permissible to light one Chanukah candle with another.

Rabbi Sachs suggests a reason for Shmuel's opinion, and why, at least in this case, the Code of Jewish Law sides with Shmuel. If Rav's opinion is based on the theory that using a candle to light another diminishes from the light on the first, then, Rabbi Sacks posits, Shmuel's opinion must be that in spite of that it is permitted because lighting a second candle increases the total amount of light now available. Now, with two or more candles lit, the menorah burns even brighter and more people see the glow of the Chanukah candles, thus giving more publicity to the holiday.

The Chanukah lights are symbolic of the light of Torah that burns in the heart of each Jew. One person who studies some Torah, one Jew who fulfills a mitzvah, one individual who reaches out with love towards his fellow in a time of need, causes the world to radiate with goodness. A Jew is not supposed to keep the light of Torah and mitzvot to himself.

The Chanukah candle teaches us that we should take some of our light and ignite a spark in the heart of our fellow Jew, so that he and you can shine together, bringing even more light into the world. That is the mission of the Jewish people, to be a "light unto the nations" and we can only accomplish this mission if we share our light with others. This is also the message of the Chanukah candle and the halachic conclusion that we may, perhaps even we must, light one mitzvah candle with another. Rather than causing the light to be diminished, we affect a total increase in the light of the mitzvah and the light of the Torah.

We at Beth David know how to share our light with others, and we do just that whenever we invite someone to join us at our services and activities. May we continue sharing the light of Jewish living with all, as we celebrate with joy the ever increasing glow of the Chanukah candles.

Chanukah Sameach!
Rabbi Zev Silber

From the President

If you have come into Beth David during the last three weeks you would know by the freezing temperature that we are having major furnace problems. As I am writing this article the heating people are again trying to fix what is wrong with the furnace. Expensive parts needed to be ordered and have finally arrived after two weeks of waiting and we hope that this will be the resolution.

During the furnace crisis, a large tree needed to be taken down in the back of the shul because we were worried that it would come down on top of the shul in the next storm. I am sharing all of these problems with you because if by chance you feel the need to make a donation to the synagogue, now is the time.

All of the work that we need to do will run about \$3,000.00 and if we have a little help from our friends it will keep our budget intact.

I want to thank the anonymous donors that contribute significantly to the synagogue, whether it is to the general fund or the monthly luncheons or many hours of their time and much effort to special projects. We want all these special people to know how much their generosity and kindness is appreciated. Please know that without your help it would be far more difficult to pay the bills.

On December 20 we will be lighting the first candle of Chanukah. I hope that this beautiful holiday will bring joy to you and your families.

Saba Wiesner, President

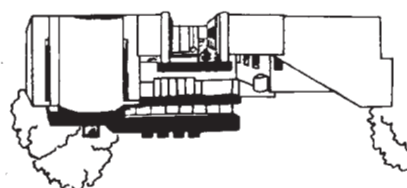
Give Double Chai

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 with 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 a thank you, arriving at the Shul office before the next deadline (February 19, 2012) will be most appreciated. Happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin

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Seudah Shlishit

I would like to thank Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz for recently sponsoring *Seudah Shlishit*. Thank you for supporting these meals not only for the *gashmiut* (food), but also for the *ruchmiut* (the spirit).

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

Yasher Koach,
Rabbi Aminadav Adamit

HOW TO STAY SAFE

Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home. (that's 37% already)

Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians. (now that's 51%)

Avoid traveling by air, trains or buses, 16% of accidents involve these forms of transportation. (that's 67%)

Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else avoid hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only 0.01% of all deaths occur in a synagogue, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is in Synagogue.

Torah Study is even safer. The number of deaths during Torah Study is too small to register.

For safety's sake, go to Shul as often as possible, and attend Torah Study. It could save your life!

InterSisterhood Meeting - Jewish Jeopardy

A: "Jewish Jeopardy" – test your knowledge of Jewish trivia.
Q: What is the special program for InterSisterhood this year?

A: All women in the community
Q: Who can attend?

A: Temple Concord
Q: Where is this event being held?

A: December 14, 2011 at 7:30 pm
Q: When is the event?

A: A lot of fun for \$5.00 including dessert
Q: What is the InterSisterhood event?

Happy Chanukah!

Sisterhood

Our Paid-Up Membership dinner was an evening of fun, food, prizes and camaraderie. Everyone really seemed to have enjoyed themselves. However, I could not have made this dinner in the two days it took without the major help of Sisterhood members. A grateful thanks to Marie Werner, Lillian Zodikoff, Meryl Sasnowitz and Cathy Velenchik for all the scrubbing, peeling, dicing, slicing, coffee set-up, and table set-ups; Susan Wright for the dessert and Marlene Serkin for her terrific job of contacting merchants for the raffle prizes and then collecting them. A true Sisterhood team effort!

Upcoming events include a Rummage sale on Sunday, December 4 through Tuesday, December 6. By the time you read this it will be over. I hope we will have had better luck with the weather this time. The last one was badly affected by Hurricane Irene and/or Lee. Our customers always come back and enjoy shopping at our sales.

December 14 will feature the annual InterSisterhood night, this year hosted by Temple Concord. The theme is Jewish Jeopardy [like the Jeopardy show]. It should be a lot of fun.

Before we know it, Chanukah will be here. So, in addition to wishing everyone and their families a happy holiday, let us hope the flames of the menorah candles spread their warm glow across the globe and bring peace to all.

Claire Ladenheim
Sisterhood President

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Ami & Sarah Lynn on the engagement of Ahi to Abbie Wasserman
Raana Bernstein on receiving the Jewish Federation's Yasher Koach Award
Leah Bridovsky on the marriage of her daughter
Howard & Karen Fisher on the birth of their new grandson
Steve & Dora Feuer on their permanent move to Florida
Elaine Green on her retirement
Sam & Claire Ladenheim on the birth of twin great-grandsons
Charlotte Neer on her birthday
Stuart & Vicki Rouff on their son's marriage
Meryl Sasnowitz on receiving the Jewish Federation's Yasher Koach Award
Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber on their grandson's Bar Mitzvah
Harry & Roz Wiesel on the birth of their new granddaughter
Michael & Saba Wiesner on their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
Michael & Susan Wright on Natania's marriage to Dmitry
Doris Zolty on her great-granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
Doris Zolty on her 91st birthday

Refuah Shelemah to:

Adina Ofek

Condolences to:

Michael Cash in memory of his brother, Murray
Shirley Lash in memory of her husband, Ralph
Isabelle Levene in memory of Ben Rouff
Rouff Family in memory of Ben
Chaya Rozen & Family in memory of her father
Sambursky Family in memory of husband/father, Jose
Cathy Velenchik in memory of her aunt, Violet
Elizabeth Rappaport in memory of her husband, Joseph
Claire Sheffitz in memory of her husband, Melvin

Beth David Family

I'm writing in the midst of a late November warm spell. Temps in the 60s are certainly a pleasant way to usher out the last days of fall. Every time we mow, we think we're done for the season, and then another opportunity comes along. But that's okay; we're not ready to trade our mowers for snow blowers just yet.

While the recent Thanksgiving weekend propelled many travelers to bond with families in other cities, it also brought some Beth David fledglings back to their home roost. Naftali and Gila Polachek, children of Dora and Sol Polachek, were in town, as were Rachel Bell, daughter of Marilyn Bell; Molly and Stuart Serkin, children of Marlene Serkin; Daniel and Michael Alweis, sons of Miriam and Aaron Alweis and grandsons of Lilly and Herman Wolf; Abigail and Betzalel Lazarus and their family, children/grandchildren of Yours Truly and my dear husband Harold; Kerry Wright, daughter of Susan and Michael Wright; and, Ani and Brad Lipitz. Jeanne and Mark Goldberg were a presence as they visited their sister and brother-in-law Toby and Harold Kohn.

Barbara and Mel Rozen of Juno Beach, FL, note their grandchildren, siblings Simone and Jake Bernstein of St. Louis, were honored by President Obama in his annual "Back to School" speech in September.

Mazel Tov to great-grandparents Claire and Samuel Ladenheim of Binghamton and grandparents Xianna and Michael Shiffman of LA on the birth of twin boys, Eliahu Aaron and Gavriel Nachum, to Abigail and Daniel Katz. An interesting aside is that the twins were born on different Hebrew dates, one on Hoshanna Rabba and the other on Simchat Torah, which meant their *britot* were on different days. May the boys reach Bar Mitzvah, *chuppah*, and 120 in good health!

Our *kehilla* (community) was blessed to celebrate two simchas in a short space of time. Mendel Slonim, son of Hadasa and Levi Slonim and grandson of Rivky and Aaron Slonim, celebrated his *upshernish* (3 year old boy's haircutting ceremony) at the Vestal Chabad Center. Only days later, Berkie Chein, son of Rochel and Shneur Zalman Chein, celebrated his *upshernish* at his home, the Westside Chabad Center. May both boys continue to learn Torah in good health.

With abundant joy, Rabbi Zev and Judy Silber trekked to Israel to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Eyal, son of Ester and Michael Schachter. The Silber's Long Island daughter Avital Weissman and her baby, Yehuda, traveled with them. The Jerusalem simcha was attended by extended family and former Binghamtonians alike. Mazel Tov to the entire Silber family.

Next in the scheme of life's cycles is the engagement, and Rabbi Ami and Sarah Lynn Adamit obliged us by announcing the engagement of their son, Ahi, to Abbie Wasserman of Columbus, Ohio.

Annette and Barry Shaw *kvelled* (were delighted) at the Boston wedding of their daughter Natalie to Johnathan Burbea. Ruth and Howard Buschman are stilling *shepping nachas* (deriving great pride) from the Israeli wedding of their granddaughter Tal Aliza, daughter of Suzie Erez, to Mordechai Avrahan Hod. Gella and Ron Weiss of Toronto announced the marriage of their daughter Miriam to Dov Ber Berman of Hollywood, FL. Mazal Tov to the Shaw, the Buschman, and the Weiss families! May each of the couples build a *bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael* (a home faithful to the Jewish traditions).

Refuah shelema to Adina Ofek and Marie Werner.

Please let me know what's happening in your family, so I can share your news with our extended Beth David Family. Contact me at msasnowitz@stny.rr.com or 797-5458.

As we enjoy the beauty of the menorah's dancing lights, let us remember the struggle against religious oppression that was won so very long ago by a small band of Jews powered by their belief. May we also use prayer and action to garner peace in Israel.

Meryl Sasnowitz

Recipie

Here's a great Italian alternative to sufganiyot and latkes. Traditionally an antipasto, this parve recipe can accompany pasta or meat dishes with equal aplomb. If you like Mediterranean flavors, you're sure to enjoy this one, which is surprisingly light for a fried food:

Cotolette di melanzana impanate
(Breaded eggplant cutlets)

1 medium eggplant 2-4 eggs
lots of bread crumbs oil for frying

Cut the ends off the eggplant and slice it vertically into uniform 1/8" slices. Lightly salt both sides and let stand for an hour or two to draw out the bitterness. Rinse thoroughly and dry. Now, bread the slices twice by dipping them in beaten egg, then in bread crumbs, once again in egg, and once again in bread crumbs. Deep fry in abundant oil (olive oil is best, followed by peanut oil and canola oil), turning frequently, and drain when golden brown. Place the slices on a few layers of paper towels and pat the top sides with more towels to remove the excess oil. Enjoy as soon as they're cool enough to eat!

Submitted by Dan Gold

From Sisterhood V. P.'s

At the last Sisterhood meeting – the Paid-Up dinner – two people were omitted from the thank you list. That's because they were busy thanking everyone else. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Claire Ladenheim for the delicious dinner and Marlene Serkin for securing the raffle prizes.

Todah Rabah, Meryl Sasnowitz and Paula Rubin

High Holiday Thank You

Thank you to all who worked on the High Holiday kiddushim this year especially:

Marlene Serkin who did the bulk (no pun intended) of the shopping, kept our menus on track and was there every day to keep us on track.

Miriam Alweis who did last minute shopping, helped with planning and generally kept me on track.

Special thanks to all who helped:

Susan Wright	Lillian Zodikoff	Sarah Lynn Adamit
Rita Shawn	Lilly Wolf	Arline Kutz
Ruth Goldstein	Judy Silber	Lil Sommer
Gina Glasman	Toby Kohn	Jackie Karp
Meryl Sasnowitz	Hadassah Gold	Claire Ladenheim
	Ruth Buschman	

And to my right and left hands, Elisa Alweis and Cathy Velenchek, who volunteered for every day and any day, simple thanks is not enough.

I apologize in advance if I omitted anyone.

Paula Rubin