

## March Minyan Times

### MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday .....	8:30 am
Monday – Friday .....	6:40 am
<b>*Except March 5</b> .....	<b>6:30 am</b>
Shabbat .....	9:00 am

### EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday – Thursday 7:00 pm  
Until March 4 only

Shabbat Mincha – after Kiddush; Ma’ariv listed below  
Until March 7 only

### EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday, February 27 .....	5:35 pm
Shabbat, February 28 .....	6:55 pm
Sunday, March 1 .....	5:40 pm
<b>Wednesday, March 4</b> .....	<b>5:30 pm</b>
<b>Thursday, March 5</b> .....	<b>5:00 pm</b>
Friday, March 6 .....	5:45 pm
Shabbat, March 7 .....	7:05 pm
Sunday – Thursday, March 8-12 .....	6:45 pm
Friday, March 13 .....	6:50 pm
Shabbat, March 14 .....	6:40 pm
Sunday – Thursday, March 15-19 .....	6:55 pm
Friday, March 20 .....	7:00 pm
Shabbat, March 21 .....	6:45 pm
Sunday – Thursday, March 22-26 .....	7:05 pm
Friday, March 27 .....	7:05 pm
Shabbat, March 28 .....	6:55 pm
Sunday, March 29 – Thursday, April 2 .....	7:10 pm

## Purim Schedule

### Ta’anit Ester

Wednesday, March 4 .....	<i>Fast begins</i> .....	5:12 am
	Shacharit .....	6:40 am
	Mincha .....	5:30 pm
	<i>Fast ends</i> .....	6:39 pm

### Purim

Wednesday, March 4 .....	Ma’ariv .....	6:30 pm
	Megillah .....	6:40 pm
Thursday, March 5 .....	Shacharit .....	6:30 am
	Megillah .....	7:00 am
	Second reading .....	4:15 pm
	Mincha .....	5:00 pm
	Purim Seudah .....	5:15 pm
	Ma’ariv .....	<i>Following the Seudah</i>

## HAPPY PURIM



**Happy Purim!**  
 Purim Seudah  
 5:15pm  
 March 5th

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# CHAI LINE

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## "The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

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### From the Rabbi

“There is one nation scattered and separated among all the nations of your realm. Their laws are different than those of all the other nations and they don’t follow the laws of the king, and it is not worthwhile for the king to leave them alone.” With this accusation, Haman proposed the annihilation and genocide of the Jewish people.

The same argument has been used, in one form or another, by anti-Semites throughout the generations since the time of the wicked Haman because it is so powerful. What makes this claim so effective is that it begins with statements that are true, and then fabricates falsified claims to show that the Jews are not worthy to be part of the community of nations and the civilized world.

Yes, it is true Jews can be found in so many different countries and nations throughout the world. Yes, it is true that Jews have laws and social customs that are different than anyone else. We have a Torah that teaches morality and ethics, care for the downtrodden, while observing Torah laws that are different than other societies. Our values are different, we have a different framework for the purpose of existence and we act in ways that show our fealty to God.

In spite of our differences, the anti-Semite ignores the fact that we also live by the principle of *dina d’malchta dina* -- that we are required by Jewish law to follow the laws of the land. The Jewish people have always been and remain today the staunchest proponents of participation in the political, legal, and social institutions of society. We have been able to perfect a synthesis of our beliefs and practices with those present in the society in which we live.

We contribute to society and take a leadership role in technological, scientific and humanitarian advances within the countries that we reside, and certainly it is worthwhile for the nation to have Jews as part of society.

Envy and jealousy cause others to fabricate lies about Jews today, just as Haman was able to do in Persia of old. And just as God acted to save the Jews from annihilation as recorded in the megillah that we read on Purim, so will we be saved today from the clutches of those who hate, terrorize and threaten to annihilate the State of Israel.

Purim is a holiday that keeps repeating itself. Let us celebrate it together.

Chag Purim Sameach!  
Rabbi Zev Silber

### Give Double Chai

For this, our annual Purim issue, I thought of trying to write something funny, but, I am not a comedienne, nor am I a writer (comedy or otherwise). I just want to thank all our sponsors, past, present, and future. Without you, the *ChaiLine* would show up as a debit on the Synagogue budget, and this is no joke.

By your donations, to commemorate simchas or sorrows, to honor someone, to say thank you, or for any reason, the *ChaiLine* has been covering its own expenses and is not a drain on the Shul budget. Todah Rabah.

Your donation of \$36.00 (regular sponsor), \$180.00 (**Special Sponsor**), or \$18.00 (thank you) received in the Shul office before the next deadline date (3/15/15) will be much appreciated.

Marlene Serkin

### Thanks to the Sponsors

**Cathy Velenchik** and **Chaim Joy** in memory of Chaim's parents **Robert** and **Nancy Joy**

**Special Sponsor Rita Shawn wishes the Beth David Family a Happy Purim**

### Matanot La’evyonim – Purim Charity

One of the *mitzvot* of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on Purim day. Your rabbis will again distribute gifts to local needy through the Jewish Family Service, and to Israeli poor through the Od Yosef Chai charitable organization.

Believe it or not, there are Jewish needy in our city and when they have received help at holiday time, they have expressed great thanks and satisfaction. Purim, being a holiday dedicated to “*simcha*” - joy, requires us to assure that all Jews can rejoice. The poor rejoice when they have the means to sustain their lives, leading to the importance placed on this mitzvah.

In order to participate in this mitzvah, donations may be sent to the shul or given to one of the rabbis by February 27. Donors are asked to mark their checks as “Purim charity” and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. Contributions received after February 26 will be sent to Israel. Those contributions may be made up to the *megillah* reading on Purim morning.



## Purim Customs and Practices

**When:** Purim begins on Wednesday, March 4, at night, and lasts through the day of Thursday, March 5. The fast of Esther is observed on Wednesday, March 4.

**Work** is permitted on Purim. However, we usually spend most of the day in fulfillment of the various *mitzvot* of Purim, as will be enumerated below.

**The Four Parshiot:** There are special Torah readings of the *maftir* during four *Shabbatot* from the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Adar until the Shabbat of Rosh Chodesh Nisan. The *Shabbat* before Purim we read *Parshat Zachor – remember* – and this serves as an affirmation to remember the evil that occurred to the Jewish people in the past and a commitment to never forget, and never again allow genocidal murder to take place. According to most authorities, hearing this portion of the Torah read is one of the 613 *mitzvot*. You are encouraged to be in *shul* on Shabbat morning, February 28, to fulfill this obligation.

**Ta'anit Ester – the Fast of Esther:** We fast on the day before Purim in commemoration of the fasting that the Jews observed on the day of the battle. The name of the fast is associated with Queen Esther, as she had declared three days of a national fast before approaching the king to request the annulment of Haman's decree. The fast is observed on Wednesday, March 4. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:12 am and ending at 6:39 pm. It is customary not to eat until after the reading of the Megillah. If you have special circumstances that may make it difficult to fast, or you need to eat before the reading of the Megillah, please consult with the rabbi.

**Reading the Megillah:** It is a mitzvah to hear the *Megillah*, the scroll of Esther, read both at night and during the day of Purim. At Beth David, we will be reading the *Megillah* on Wednesday night, March 4 at 6:40 pm and Thursday morning, March 5 at 7:00 am, following Shacharit. If you cannot make the early morning reading, you are invited to join for an additional reading at the shul at 4:15 pm, prior to the festive meal.

It is customary to contribute to synagogue maintenance before hearing the *Megillah*, in commemoration of the *machatzit hashkekel*, the three half shekels that were given each year in Adar for the maintenance of the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

**Matanot La'evyonim – gifts to the poor:** It is a mitzvah to give at least two gifts to each of two poor people on this day as Purim charity. The rabbis will be collecting and distributing Purim charity to local Jewish poor through Jewish Family Service and to the poor in Israel through the *Od Yosef Chai* organization. Contributions for this purpose should be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and please note how you wish your contribution to be divided, between local or Israel needs. Contributions for local needs must be made by February 26, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning *Megillah* reading.

**Mishloach Manot – food gifts to friends:** Commonly known as *shalach manot*, we give at least two portions of ready-to-eat foods to at least one other person. The mitzvah of sharing Purim joy through food is commendable, but more of our holiday funds should be allocated for gifts to the poor.

**Seudat Purim – the Purim feast:** It is a mitzvah to participate in a festive meal on Purim day (not at night). Beth David will conduct its annual Purim Seudah on Thursday, March 5, at 5:15 pm. See announcement in this issue!

**Special prayers:** On *Ta'anit Esther* we add special prayers and Torah readings at both the morning and afternoon services, as is customary for fast days. On Purim we add *al hanissim* in Grace after meals and the *amidah*. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. There is a special Torah reading in the morning, before the *Megillah* reading. The day after Purim is known as *Shushan Purim* and is the day that Purim is celebrated in Jerusalem. We do not say *tachanun* in honor of this day.

## Beth David Family

In late fall, Susan and Gerry Hubal attended the Bar Mitzvah of a great nephew in Israel. They were joined by two of their sons and several grandchildren for a *freilach* family simcha. A couple of weeks later, Harold and I traveled to Jerusalem to visit our two grandsons. Between the Hubals and the Sasnowitzes, many former Binghamtonians were visited. Seen were: the Groners, the Wilsons, the Oppenheims, the Feldhamers, Naomi Staiman, Claire Goldstein, and the Mandels (Oppenheim children).

Svetlana and Mark Budman, now of Brighton, MA, are celebrating the engagement of their daughter Elizabeth. Valerie and Leonard Preston marked their 50th wedding anniversary with a wonderful Shabbat Kiddush. We wish them *bracha* until 120! Harry Wiesel retired from his years of working in industry. This is his third attempt at the process, and we know this one will stick. May Harry and Roz Wiesel enjoy many years of travel and family in good health.

Abigail and Shai Romirowsky, of Washington, DC, welcomed a son, Ilan Yaakov, into their family. His arrival was an introduction into grandparenthood for Sharon and Howie Mintz, of Providence, RI. His birth also brought much joy to Bob and an ailing Ruth Groh, who became first time great-grandparents. Ruth, a longtime shul member and friend, passed away only a few weeks later.

Annette and Barry Shaw *kvelled* at the wedding of their daughter Lindsay to Ari Schnitzer. It was truly *bashert* (meant to be) as both the kallah and the katan's families are Romanesque Jews from the same town, Janina, Greece. Claire Goldstein, of Jerusalem, had the *z'cus* (merit) of attending the weddings of her two granddaughters. Mira Samson married Etan Kastenbaum, and her sister, Tamar Samson, married Ilja Schwarzberg. The brides are the daughters of Adina and David Samson, of Efrat. Rivky and Aaron Slonim *shepped* much nachas at the wedding of their son Shmuli to Nechama Lazaroff in Houston. The Slonim family contingent made it to Houston before snow shut down airports throughout the country. Among the many guests were Judy and Irwin Simon. A sad Toby and Harold Kohn couldn't make the trip due to cancelled flights. Mazal Tov to Annette and Barry Shaw, Claire Goldstein, and to the entire Slonim family. May each of the couples build a *bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael*.

Refuah Shelema to Ruth Buschman, Jeanette DeLeon, Frieda Samuels, Harold Sasnowitz, Ilana Segal, and Aaron Slonim.

With sadness I note the passing of Ruth Buschman's sister, Shosha Zlata, Paula Rubin's brother Lou, and Janet Wilson's father, James McClellan Jr. We also mourn the passing of Barry Shaw's mother, Reva Shaw, and Ruth Groh, wife of Bob Groh. May Ruth and Howard Buschman, Paula and Charles Rubin, Janet and Ken Wilson, Annette and Barry Shaw, and Bob, Ellen, and Sharon Groh, and all the extended families find consolation among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.

Saba Wiesner and her crew are planning a delicious Purim *seudah* for all of us to partake. We'll have the opportunity to schmooze, be joyous, and fulfill a mitzvah all at the same time! Hope to see you there on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Meryl Sasnowitz

## From the President

Just to say thank you does not reflect the gratitude I feel toward all who gave so generously to The Capital Campaign. We are just under \$20,000.00 as of now and I do anticipate that those of you who have not yet given will do so soon. The repairs are ongoing and will result in our Shul being in much better shape and looking beautiful. We all benefit greatly from the good will of our congregation and from generous people in our community.

Our weather has been extremely cold and I am always worried that attendance to Shul on Shabbos and the luncheons will suffer. Thankfully it is not the case; we have had a good number of people braving the cold, which is pretty impressive considering that many of our members walk to Shul. Even for our Ice Cream for Breakfast Kiddush we had a nice group attend.

It is hard to believe that it is almost Purim; I need to get my menu started for the Seudah. Please make your reservations early so that preparation will not be worrisome as to how much to purchase. We are all looking forward to a fun Purim and Seudah but not everyone is so fortunate, please remember to donate to people that are needy.

On May 17 we will be celebrating our annual dinner. I am so happy to announce that Marilyn Bell will be our Honoree. Marilyn is most deserving of this honor for her tireless work as assistant treasurer, among other positions. She spends many hours a week in the office and this year, on top of her many responsibilities she had to learn a new software program. Thank you Marilyn for all your work and Mazel Tov, we look forward to your special day.

I hope that our winter is short and I want to wish all of you a Very Happy Purim.

Saba Wiesner, President

## Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 4.....Megillah reading - 6:40 pm  
Thursday, March 5.....Megillah reading 7:00 am & 4:15 pm  
Thursday, March 5.....Purim Seudah - 5:15 pm  
Wednesday, March 11.....Sisterhood Meeting - 7:30 pm  
Shabbat, March 14.....Shabbat Luncheon  
Wednesday, March 25.....Pre-Pesach Workshop - 7:45 pm

## Thank You

I would like to say thank you for the donations made to the shul and the Mitzvah Cards and condolences received on the passing of my sister, Shosha Zlata.

Ruth Buschman

Not on our e-mail list?  
Send your address to: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com

## Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

**Mazel Tov to:**

Len & Valerie Preston in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary  
Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim in honor of the marriage of Shmuli & Nechama

Sharon & Howie Mintz in honor of the birth of their grandson Ilan  
Robert & Ruth Groh in honor of the birth of their great grandson Ilan  
Diane & David Ach in honor of the marriage of Julie & Ofer  
Mark & Svetlana Budman in honor of Elizabeth's engagement  
Sol & Debbie Mowshowitz in honor of their 1st grandson, Alexander  
Dina Danon & Eliav Bock in honor of the birth of a son  
Sari Schwartz on her Beth David Luncheon talk

**Refuah Shelema to:**

Ruth Buschman Marina Lowy Harold Sasnowitz  
Hershey Rozen Laura Greger Jeanette DeLeon  
Yehuda Weissman, grandson of Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber

**In Memory Of:**

Shosha Zlata, sister of Ruth Buschman  
The father of Malvinia Sambursky  
Dr. Milton Walker, father of Dr. Mark Walker  
The brother of Paula Rubin

## Contributions

**General Fund from:**

Ruth Goldstein thanking Lillian Zodikoff for all her mitzvahs  
Susan & Gerry Hubal in memory of Ruth Buschman's sister  
Saba & Michael Wiesner in memory of Ruth Buschman's sister  
Maida Piaker in memory of Ruth Buschman's sister  
Marion Pine in memory of Ruth Buschman's sister  
Honey Esserman in memory of Ruth Buschman's sister  
Lillian Sommer in memory of Ruth Buschman's sister  
Susan & Gerry Hubal in memory of Marlene Serkin's sister  
Leonard & Valerie Preston in memory of Marlene Serkin's sister  
Suzanne Krause & Celia Klin in memory of Doris Zolty  
Susan & Gerry Hubal in honor of the birth of Rabbi and Judy Silber's grandson, Yair Zion, and Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter Michal

**Shul Beautiful to:**

From Ann Brilliant, wishing a Refuah Shelema to Laura Greger  
From Claire & Sam Ladenheim in deep appreciation to Marlene Serkin for always producing a beautiful ChaiLine  
From Marcy & Gabi Yonaty wishing Steven Schneider a happy & healthy 75th birthday

**Sisterhood Mitzvah Fund from:**

Annette and Barry Shaw in honor of the marriage of their daughter Lindsey to Ari Schnitzer