

# Sisterhood

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Our first order of business will be a rummage sale on August 28, 29 and 30, so start rummaging through your home, declutter and get all that stuff to the synagogue for the sale. Please contact Marlene (729-3235) to volunteer. We actually have a good time. Our customers, who keep coming back sale after sale, tell us we have the nicest merchandise and they enjoy shopping with us.

Our opening meeting will be September 14, program to be announced. There will be no meeting in October because of all the holidays. The Paid-Up Membership Dinner meeting is November 9.

I would like to thank Rivky Slonim and her crew for a delicious Closing Dinner this past June. We had a great turnout and everyone really enjoyed the food. The one thing missing was Rivky herself.

Mark these Sisterhood dates on your calendar:  
August 28, 29, 30  
September 14  
November 9

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you soon!

*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 & Mrs. Ami Adami on Gilad's engagement to Batsheva Tanya Bank-Wright on earning her PhD.  
Rochel Chein on her brother's becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Susan Hubal on her special birthday  
Marge & Stuart Kaufman on their new granddaughter, Sloane  
Harold & Toby Kohn Yasher Koach on chairing the Shul Dinner  
Claire Ladenheim on receiving the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award  
Merri Pell-Preus on the excellent job she's done chairing the Temple Concord Book Club  
Marlene Serkin on her 80th birthday  
Judy Silber on receiving the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award  
Rabbi & Mrs. Aaron Slonim on Chaya Mushka's graduation  
Rabbi & Mrs. Aaron Slonim on Yisroel's graduation  
Tom & Suzanne Triebwasser on their new home  
Lori & Brian Tuberman on Melanie's graduation from Hillel Academy  
Arieh Ullmann on Jeremy's earning his PhD.  
Saba Wiesner Kol HaKavod for all of the hard work she does for the Shul  
Eileen & Dan Miller on Brian becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Howard Zende thank you  
Maria & Bob Kutz thank you  
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on their new grandson and new granddaughter  
Michael & Susan Wright on Natania's engagement to Dmitry

### *Refuah Shelemah to:*

Cathy Velenchik

### *Condolences to:*

Susan Choi in memory of her son, Jay  
Debbie Greenberg-Strano in memory of her brother, Steven  
Joyce Mendel in memory of her husband, Eric  
Lori Tuberman in memory of her father, Jack Harary  
Claire Shefftz in memory of her husband, Melvin  
Gabriel Stroll & Family in memory of his father, Ernest  
Daniel Stroll & Family in memory of his father, Ernest

## Customs and Practices for the "Nine Days" & Tish'a B'av

**Background:** The three-week period from 17 Tammuz through 9 Av was a time of tragedy for the Jewish people. Many calamities happened on these specific days and during the time between. The catastrophic events surrounding the Holy Temple in Jerusalem that occurred on those specific days resulted in the long exile, which is still ongoing. On the 17th of Tammuz the walls of Jerusalem were breached during the period of the second Temple, and the 9th of Av marks the day on which both the first and second Temples were destroyed. For that reason it was ordained that this period of 3 weeks shall be observed as days of mourning by the entire nation. Some mourning practices begin on 17 Tammuz and they increase in severity as we approach the 9th of Av.

We discussed the customs of the beginning of this period in the last *ChaiLine*. Now we will mention the customs observed after Rosh Chodesh Av.

**When:** The 9 days begin on Rosh Chodesh Av, which occurs on Monday, August 1, and continue through 9 Av, which occurs on Tuesday, August 9.

**Mourning practices:** During the entire 3-week period we do not conduct weddings, we refrain from haircuts, and we avoid listening to live music. During the 9 days beginning on Rosh Chodesh we refrain from eating meat and drinking wine (or grape juice), and from wearing freshly laundered and ironed clothes. Freshly laundered undergarments are permitted. None of these restrictions apply to Shabbat. We may also drink the wine or grape juice used for Havdalah, even though it is no longer Shabbat, however it is preferable that a child drink the wine or grape juice. We also do not launder or dry clean clothes during this period, even for use after the 9 days. Swimming and bathing for pleasure is likewise forbidden. Bathing for hygienic and health reason is permitted. Purchasing "items of joy" should be avoided unless their cost will be higher, or the item will not be available, after Tish'a B'Av. Shaving is avoided during the 9 days, or at least the week in which Tish'a B'Av occurs, and is forbidden on Tish'a B'Av itself – Monday night and Tuesday.

**Erev Tish'a B'Av:** Before sunset it is customary to eat a *seudat hamafseket*, the last meal before the fast commences. The regular meal eaten in order to have the strength to fast is consumed earlier. This meal is a meal of mourning. It consists of just one course, usually a hard-boiled egg, and bread. This meal is eaten while sitting on a low chair, just like during Shiva, and consumed in solitude. This is the last food that one should consume before the fast.

**Tish'a B'Av is observed for the full 24-hour period, beginning at sundown on Monday, August 8. All the restrictions of Yom Kippur apply:** It is prohibited to eat and drink, we are not allowed to wash, anoint oneself, wear leather shoes or engage in marital relations. If you need to take medication or consume food or drink due to health reasons, please consult with the rabbi. It is also customary to sit on a low chair or on the floor, as during Shiva, until Mincha on Tish'a B'Av.

**Ma'ariv service:** After the evening service we read the book of Eicha (Lamentations), followed by several kinot, poetic dirges which recall the destruction of the Temple.

**Shacharit service:** We do not don Tallit or Tefilin and, following the service, many kinot are recited which recall the many tragic events that occurred on this day.

**Mincha service:** We wear our Tallit and Tefilin and the traditional service for a fast day is recited.

**After Tish'a B'Av:** Some of the restrictions of Tish'a B'Av continue until noon of the next day. It is customary not to eat meat or drink wine or grape juice until after noon. It is permissible to wear leather shoes and bathe immediately after the fast. We are not permitted to wash clothes, get a haircut or shave until after noon.

Our sages teach that whoever mourns over Jerusalem will merit the future vision of her joy. As it is written in Isaiah (Chapter 66, verse 10), "rejoice greatly with her, all who mourn her."

# Beth David Family

What a beautiful time of year this is; flowers are bursting forth with color, and vegetables are filling our bushel baskets. Farmers' markets and u-pick sites are a visitor's paradise, enticing us with their vibrant palette of offerings. Oh, to summer in Binghamton... Susan Hubal had a surprise houseful to celebrate her special birthday. Rob, Mark, and Todd and their families, as well as extended family members, arrived here from up and down the eastern seaboard. Marlene Serkin's special birthday was enhanced by the visit of her children Molly and Stuart Serkin of CT. Dora and Steve Feuer returned from their Florida winter. It's good to see their familiar faces in shul. Marcia and Steve Sutter cruised the warm Caribbean waters, while Svetlana and Mark Budman and their daughters Lucy and Elizabeth journeyed to Israel to visit Mark's parents and extended family members. Mazal Tov to Channi and Levi Levertov of Phoenix on the birth of a girl, Mushka. Bubbe and Zaide Rivky and Aaron Slonim delighted in bonding with their newest grandchild. Marge and Stuart Kaufman are kvelling over their first grandchild, a girl, Sloane Rae, born here in Vestal to local parents Kerri and Jonathan Weinstein. In the space of three days, Harold and I welcomed two new members to our family tree. A boy, Zecharya Yitzchok, was born to Rochie and Marc Sommer of Passaic, and a girl, Tzipora Bracha, was born to Abigail and Tzali Lazarus of neighboring Clifton. These grandparents were hopping around NJ. May each of the babies grow to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, to chuppah, and to 120 in good health!

On a recent Sunday evening, a NYC double-header took place. First up was an Upper West Side L'chaim celebrating the engagement of Natania Wright to Dmitry Ostrovsky. Next came the Monsey wedding of Itta Pasha Berkowitz, daughter of Jackie and Mark Berkowitz and granddaughter of Marion and Norman Rudin, to Shragi Lazarus. Several Binghamtonians had the zichus (merit) to attend both simchas. Mazal tov to the kallah and chatan. May they build a bayit neeman b'yisrael. Another Mazal Tov to Marion and Norman Rudin, this time on the engagement of their grandson Akiva, son of Debbie and Hal Rudin of Passaic, to Tzivya Auflander. Mazal tov to Melanie Tuberman, daughter of Lori and Brian Tuberman, on her graduation from Hillel Academy. May she have a successful transition to high school. Mazal Tov to Deborah Ariel, daughter of Andrea and Greg Riskin of NJ, who recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah. She's the granddaughter of Aniko and Andy Sarkany of New Haven. Kol hakavod to Shelemyahu Zacks, professor of mathematical sciences at Binghamton University, who was appointed a distinguished professor, the highest system honors conferred upon SUNY faculty. Mazal tov to Josh and Jessie Jasper on their recent marriage in Rhode Island and thanks for including the Beth David family by sponsoring a Sheva B'rachot Kiddush on the Shabbat following the wedding.

A refuah shelemah is wished to Cathy Velenchik. With sadness I mention the passing of Leonard Giesberg, the companion of Sandra Wiener, and of Jordan Gilinsky. May Sandra Wiener and the entire Gilinsky Family know no more sorrow. I also note the passing of Jack Harary, the father of Lori Tuberman. May Lori and Brian and their children Melanie and Samantha find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. We wish farewell to the Shnoor family who returned to Israel after spending a year as members of the Beth David Family. They have been a great asset and will be missed by all.

With the three-week period approaching, I'd like to make special mention of the young couples who will join us from the SEED program for the immediate period preceding Tisha B'Av. They offer opportunities usually found in only large cities; people of all levels are welcomed to learn with these folks, either in groups or individually, on a whole gamut of topics, either their choice or yours. You'll find them easy to talk to and an asset to our community. May their insights and enthusiasm bring meaning to us all.

*Meryl Sasnowitz*

## Seudah Shlishit

I would like to thank Brian and Lori Tuberman 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 Adami*

# Contributions

*General Fund from:*

JCC Friendship Club in honor of Rabbi Silber  
Isabelle Levene & Ben Rouff in honor of Sam Ladenheim's 90th birthday  
Isabelle Levene & Ben Rouff in honor of Claire Ladenheim receiving the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award  
Stephen & Elaine Metzger in honor of Susan Hubal's birthday  
Maria & Bob Kutz in honor of Marlene Serkin's 80th birthday  
Charna & Pinchas Oppenheim in honor of Marlene Serkin's 80th birthday  
Charna & Pinchas Oppenheim in honor of the engagement of Natania Wright  
Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy in honor of Claire Ladenheim & Judy Silber receiving the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award  
Rita Shawn thanking Meryl Sasnowitz for her help  
Ruth Goldstein wishing Gloria Pelter a speedy recovery  
Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber in honor of the forthcoming marriage of Natania Wright and Dmitry Ostrovsky  
Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber in honor of the marriage of Josh Jasper & Jessie Klein

### *In Memory of:*

Stanley Kur by Elaine Bollinger  
Leonard Geisberg by Charna & Pinchas Oppenheim  
Steven Greenberg the brother of Debbie Greenberg-Strano by Saba & Michael Wiesner

### *Shul Beautiful to:*

Dr. & Mrs. Les Bank on Tanya's earning her PhD. from Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus  
Dr. & Mrs. Les Bank on Tanya's earning her PhD. from Dr. & Mrs. Barry Shaw  
Stuart & Marge Kaufman on the birth of their granddaughter, Sloane from Sy & Judy Simon  
Claire Ladenheim on receiving the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award from Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus  
Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus on the engagement of Alexander to Anna from Barry & Annette Shaw  
Marlene Serkin on her 80th birthday from Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus  
Marlene Serkin on her 80th birthday from Bruce & Harriet Becker  
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Shaw on Natalie's engagement to Jonathan from Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus  
Judy Silber on receiving the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award from Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus  
Rabbi & Mrs. Aaron Slonim on the graduations of Chaya Mushka & Yisroel from Bruce & Harriet Becker  
Sandra Weiner in memory of Leonard Geisberg from Sy & Judy Simon

### *Thank You*

I want to say thank you for all the cards, gifts, flowers, meals and donations to the Mitzvah Fund in honor of my 80th birthday. I feel very blessed to have so many wonderful caring friends.

*Marlene Serkin*

## Rummage/Recycle Sale

Sisterhood is planning its summer sale to be held August 28, 29, and 30, at Beth David.

Your help is needed to set up the sale on Sunday morning, August 28, starting at 8:30 am, also for clean-up on Tuesday, August 30, starting at 11:30 am. Neither session will take too long.

Please call or e-mail me to say you will volunteer' (729-3235, mserkin@stny.rr.com)

Thanks for all your help  
*Marlene Serkin*

### *Thank You*

Thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes for a speedy recovery after I broke my wrist, and special thanks to those who offered their help.

Cathy Velenchik