

April - May Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
<i>*Except May 9; June 7.....</i>	<i>6:30am</i>
<i>*Except May 30.....</i>	<i>8:30am</i>
Shabbat	9:00 am

EVENINGS (times constant)

Friday	7:15 pm
<i>Except April 22 – see Pesach Schedule</i>	



EVENINGS (times vary)

Shabbat, April 9	7:10 pm
Sunday – Thursday, April 10-14	7:25 pm
Shabbat, April 16	7:00 pm
Sunday – Wednesday, April 17-20	7:35 pm
Thursday - Shabbat, April 21-30.....	<i>see Pesach Schedule</i>
Sunday – Thursday, May 1-5	7:50 pm
Shabbat, May 7	7:40 pm
Sunday – Thursday, May 8-12	7:55 pm
Shabbat, May 14	7:45 pm
Sunday – Thursday, May 15-19	8:05 pm
Shabbat, May 21	7:55 pm
Sunday – Thursday, May 22-26	8:10 pm
Shabbat, May 28	8:00 pm
Sunday – Thursday, May 29-June 2.....	8:15 pm
Shabbat, June 4	8:05 pm
Sunday - Thursday, June 5-9	8:20 pm

Happy Passover!



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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

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April/May - Pesach, 2016-5776

From the Rabbi

When we hear that Pesach is on the horizon, the first thing we usually think about is the cleaning, the shopping for Passover approved foods, and the cooking. Then, we remember that all this preparation leads to an enjoyable and delectable seder.

The seder! Who will be coming, how many to prepare for, and so many other details are necessary for this wonderful experience. However, besides being physically enjoyable, the seder is also, perhaps primarily, meant to be a spiritual experience. The uniqueness of the seder is that it is also an educational experience.

At the seder we perform the once-a-year mitzvah of *sippu yetziat mitzrayim* – telling the story of the Exodus. Interestingly, the Talmud and the halacha stipulated that this mitzvah can only be fulfilled by utilizing a question and answer format. Therefore, the seder begins with the famous four questions – the *Ma Nishtana*. Furthermore, the rabbis tell us that even if we are having the seder alone (*this shouldn't happen to anyone – if you know someone in that position, please let me know!*) we must ask ourselves questions and attempt to answer them.

Questions and answers are so vital to the seder that anyone who just reads through the Hagaddah text without pausing to question may not be fulfilling the mitzvah! And, if we don't know the answer to the question posed, perhaps this is a signal that we should spend some time before the next seder seeking a solution.

There is a story told of the Chatam Sofer, Rabbi Moses Schreiber (1762–1839), whose son asked him a philosophical question and he said that he didn't know the answer. A few days later, the rabbi responded with a lengthy answer to his son. When asked why he didn't respond earlier, the Chatam Sofer stated: I wanted you to learn that a Jew can live with questions.

Yes, we can live with questions, but it is better to search for answers, as well. When we do find the answers, the seder becomes so much more rewarding. This should be our goal each and every year.

This year, with the first seder on Friday night and the second right after Shabbat, there are many questions. How do I do it right without violating the holy Shabbat? I invite you to attend my pre-Pesach workshop on April 13, when we will answer many of these questions, and maybe many others, as well!

From my family to yours, I wish you all a *chag kasher v'sameach* – may you have a joyous and kosher Pesach holiday.

Rabbi Zev Silber

From the President

Happy Passover to one and all.

Saba Wiesner, president

Give Double Chai

Purim is past and we all want to thank Saba Wiesner for putting on a wonderful Purim Seudah. Saba is a great cook and her special touches on whatever she undertakes always are enjoyed by all.

Pesach will soon be upon us and we are all asked to dig a little deeper and make donations so that people less fortunate than we can celebrate the holiday in a proper manner. The members of Beth David have always been very generous and you can be sure that the recipients of these donations appreciate it very much.

One of the goals of the *ChaiLine* is to be self-sufficient and not have to take money from the Shul budget to bring this bulletin to you. We have been covering expenses, thanks to you, our sponsors. Let's keep it up.

Sponsorship is \$36.00 per issue, **special sponsorship is \$180.00**, and a thank you note is \$18.00. By sending your check (made out to Beth David Synagogue with "*ChaiLine*" written on the memo line, and a note telling us what you would like to say) to the shul before the next deadline (5/29/16) you will be included in the Shavuot issue.

From my house to yours, a happy and kosher Pesach.

Marlene Serkin

Thanks to Our Sponsors of This Issue

Marlene Serkin thanking past, present and future sponsors of the *ChaiLine*, thanking those of you who thought of me at Purim, and to wish everyone a *chag kasher v'sameach*

Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy in memory of Cathy's parents, **Max and Helen Velenchik**

Rika and Steven Katz wishing a *chag sameach* to all our friends at Beth David

Marcy and Gaby Yonaty in memory of **Ethel Aaron Hauser**
Paula and Charles Rubin in honor of our beloved son, **Stephen**, of Blessed Memory

Pesach Customs and Practices

When: Pesach begins on Friday, April 22nd at night, and lasts through the day of Shabbat, April 30^h.

Prohibition of *Chametz*: It is not only forbidden to eat *chametz* on Pesach, it is also forbidden to have *chametz* in our possession or in our sight. Therefore, a thorough **cleaning** of all places where *chametz* may be found is required by the night of Thursday, April 21st. What is required is to clean all places where *chametz* may be found, used or stored in our homes, basement, pantries, offices, cars, purses and book bags. Don’t forget your talit bag! Spring cleaning of rooms and areas that never have *chametz* there is not necessary. *Chametz* products that we are not consuming or throwing away before Pesach should be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Dishes and utensils used for *chametz* should also be stored separately in order to avoid the mistaken use of these during Pesach.

Kitchen Preparation: We only use Pesach dishes, utensils and cookware on Pesach. The kitchen counters and appliances must be made Kosher for Pesach before any food for Passover is prepared in or on them. The **kashering** process differs for each appliance or utensil, and some may not be koshered at all. Please consult a reliable source for the laws and method of koshering, and do not hesitate to ask the rabbi for assistance. Many of the major supervising agencies have kashering guides on their web sites. Kashering must be completed before you burn the *chametz*.

Shopping: Buy only products with a Kosher for Passover label from a reliable supervisory organization. The primary reliable agencies are the OU, the Star-K, the Chof-K, the OK, and KAJ. Many other supervisory agencies are also acceptable, but consult the rabbi before purchasing a product with a kashrut symbol that you do not know if it is acceptable. Many products can be used on Pesach without a special marking, and most of the kashrut agencies have lists of these on their web sites. When in doubt, please ask the rabbi for assistance.

Mechirat Chametz - Selling of the Chametz: The *chametz* that we have not consumed or disposed of before Pesach may not remain in our possession during the holiday. In order to avoid undue hardship or a large economic loss, arrangements can be made to sell the *chametz* to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. As indicated above, all *chametz* remaining in your home must be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Non-Passover utensils can be stored separately since we do not need to sell these. In order to execute a legally and halachically binding sale, you must complete the authorization form found in this *ChaiLine* and submit it by 10:00 am on Friday, April 22nd. It is preferable to do this in person, but forms submitted to the office or by mail are also acceptable.

Bedikat Chametz – Search for Chametz: We check the house and search for any *chametz* that we may not have found during our cleaning after nightfall on Thursday, April 21st. It is customary to place 10 pieces of *chametz* around the house prior to the search to make sure that our search is complete. Any *chametz* that we find during our search should be stored or disposed of, except for that which we plan to burn the next morning. Before beginning the search we recite a blessing, and following the search we recite a statement of nullification for any *chametz* that we may not have found. The blessing and nullification can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

Ta’anit Bechorim - Fast of the First Born: The fast of First Born is held on Erev Pesach, Friday, April 22nd, to commemorate their deliverance from death during the tenth plague in Egypt. It is customary for the first-born to participate in a meal served in celebration of a *mitzvah*, such as a *Brit Mila* (circumcision) or *siyum* (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud). Those who attend one of these events celebrate with the partaking of refreshments and are then exempt from this fast. A *siyum* will be held at

Beth David following *Shacharit* services.

Bi’ur Chametz – Burning the Chametz: It is prohibited to eat *chametz* on Erev Pesach, Friday, April 22nd after 10:44 am. All *chametz* must be removed from our possession and the *chametz* found the night before during the search must be burned by 11:52 pm. A statement of nullification of any *chametz* not found or disposed of is recited at the time of burning. The statement can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

Matzah and food on Erev Pesach: It is forbidden to eat matzah during the entire day of Erev Pesach is order that we may hunger for the taste of matzah at the Seder. Under some conditions, foods containing matzah meal may be eaten, as well as egg matzah, which we generally do not eat on Pesach. Please consult the rabbi for specifics. After 4:24 pm we may only eat small quantities of fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs or fish.

Seder Preparation: The special foods for the Seder plate for both *Sedarim* should be prepared during the day of Erev Pesach. The *Kiddush* at the Seder may not be recited until after nightfall on either night. The *afikoman* should be eaten before 1:00 AM. Some people have the custom of beginning *sefirat ha’omer* – the counting of the omer – at the second Seder instead of counting during the evening service.

Candle Lighting and Havdalah: Since the first night of Pesach is Friday night, candles must be lit by 7:35 pm and the blessing recited is *l’hadlik ner shel Shabbat v’shel Yom Tov*. The second night, candles are lit **after** 8:36 pm, and the blessing is *l’hadlik ner shel Yom Tov*, at which time preparations for the seder are permitted. Havdalah is incorporated into the *Kiddush* recited at the seder, as is found in the haggadah. Havdalah is recited on Sunday night after 8:38 pm, using only wine or grape juice. No candle or spices are used at this havdalah.

For the last days, which begin on Thursday night, the blessing on the candles is *l’hadlik ner shel Yom tov*. On Friday night, April 29th, candles must be lit by 7:43 pm and the blessing is *l’hadlik ner shel Shabbat v’shel Yom Tov*. Havdalah is not recited at all until after Shabbat on April 30th, after 8:44 pm, and the standard havdalah for ending Shabbat is recited.

Eruv Tavshilin – The Mixing of Cooked Foods: The Biblical prohibition against labor on the Festivals specifically does not include the preparation or cooking of food. However, food may only be prepared for that day’s use. When a *Yom Tov* falls on a Friday, our Rabbis ruled that we are allowed to prepare food on the holiday for use on the Sabbath only if the preparation begins before the holiday. This is known as *Eruv Tavshilin*, or the “mixing of cooked foods”, and is performed this year on the 4th day of Chol Hamoed, Thursday, April 28th for the last days of Pesach.

With a matzah and any cooked food in hand (such as fish or a hard boiled egg), we recite a blessing and declaration as is found in a siddur or Haggadah.

After Pesach: *Chametz* that was owned by a Jew during Pesach may not be consumed, even after Pesach. The *chametz* that you arranged to have been sold before Pesach will be returned to your possession at approximately 9:45 pm on Saturday, April 30. Price Chopper is Jewish owned and arranged for its *chametz* to be sold to a non-Jew through the Albany Vaad Hakashrut. Weis Markets is Jewish owned and the *chametz* in all the local stores was sold by me, while the stores in other areas have been arranged with other rabbis. The *chametz* at the local JCC, Hillel Academy and our synagogue was sold by me.

This information is accurate as of time of publication. If there are any changes which will affect the ability to purchase or consume *chametz* from or at any of these businesses, I will inform the congregation by e-mail. *If you do not receive e-mail updates from the synagogue, please send a request to rabbisilber@stny.rr.com to be added to our distribution list.*

Beth David Family

Our correspondent is on vacation. Her column will appear in the Shavuot issue with all the doings of the Beth David Family.

Wanted

I am looking for an individual willing to learn how to coordinate and prepare the *ChaiLine*.

I am also looking for one, two or more women to take over chairing the Rummage Sales. This is a major fund raising project for Sisterhood and if a new chair or chairs cannot be found, the next sale will be the last.

Please contact me at mserkin@stny.rr.com or 729-3235.

Thanks,
Marlene Serkin

Contributions

General Fund

In memory of Herman Wolf from:

Selma Joy Radin	Steven and Renee Hammel
Joseph and Dina Cotton	Robert and Maria Kutz

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Brenda Margolis	Susan & Gerry Hubal
Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz	Marie Werner
Nancy Basmann	Rita Shawn
Kathie Shelly	Rabbi Ami & Sarah Lynn Adamit

Shul Beautiful to:

Miriam Alweis in memory of her father, Herman Wolf from Ann Brilliant
Howard & Ruth Buschman in honor of their first great grandson from Kathie Shelly

Rhonda Levine in honor of her receiving the Jerry Balmuth Award from Kathie Shelly

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz in honor of their granddaughter, Maayan becoming a Bat Mitzvah from Kathie Shelly

Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber in honor of their grandson, Avi, becoming a Bar Mitzvah from Kathie Shelly

Jeanette DeLeon, wishing her a Refuah Shelemah from Kathie Shelly

Dora Feuer, wishing her a Refuah Shelemah from Kathie Shelly

Susan Gilinsky, wishing her a Refuah Shelemah from Kathie Shelly

Laura Greger, wishing her a Refuah Shelemah from Kathie Shelly

Rabbi Ami Adamit in memory of his nephew from Kathie Shelly

Miriam Alweis in memory of her father, Herman Wolf from Kathie Shelly

Dora Feuer, wishing her a Refuah Shelemah from Irwin & Judy Simon

Miriam Alweis & Family in memory of father & grandfather from Irwin & Judy Simon

Miriam Alweis & Family in memory of father & grandfather from Steve & Dora Feuer

Sisterhood

This article will be coming your way after the InterSisterhood program of April 6.

It will have featured the history of the Hamsa, an amulet worn by many of so many countries. Members were asked to bring their own Hamsas, if they had one, and relate what they knew about it. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening which took place at Temple Concord and was coordinated by Dora Polachek and Roz Antoun. Refreshments were served.

Don’t forget to attend the Pre-Pesach Workshop on April 13, at 7:30pm, conducted by Rabbi Silber.

There is no meeting scheduled until the closing one in June. However, Marlene Serkin will endeavor to have a rummage sale perhaps in May. More on that later.

Have a wonderful and fulfilling Pesach, meaningful Sedurim and *Chag Sameach* to all.

Claire Ladenheim, Sisterhood President

***Thank you for remembering me at Purim time.
It was much appreciated.
Lillian Zodikoff***

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Claire Ladenheim in honor of her granddaughter's engagement
Susan Grosberg in honor of daughter, Dina's engagement
Rhonda Levine in honor of her receiving the Jerry Balmuth Award
Eliezer Silber in honor of his son, Avi's becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Aaron & Miriam Alweis in honor of the birth of their new grandson
Howard & Ruth Buschman in honor of their first great grandson
Rabbi Zalman & Rochel Chein in honor of the birth of their new son
Jerry & Elaine Cohen in honor of their new granddaughter
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz in honor of their granddaughter, Maayan, becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Thinking of You

Tom Head

Refuah Shelemah to:

Dora Feuer	Stuart Serkin	Jeanette DeLeon
Susan Gilinsky	Laura Greger	Charles Shuman
	Marie Werner	

Condolences to:

Rabbi Ami Adamit in memory of his nephew
Lilly Wolf in memory of her husband, Herman Wolf
Miriam Alweis & Family in memory of father & grandfather, Herman Wolf
Ronald Grant in memory of his stepmother
Nellie Roth in memory of her husband, David Roth