

September- December Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)*

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday.....	6:40 am
*Except September 26, 27; October 3-6, 17-19, 28.....	6:30 am
*Except September 29, 30:.....	8:15 am
*Except November 24, 25.....	8:30 am
*Except October 13, 14, 20, 21.....	9:00 am
Shabbat.....	9:00 am

EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday – Thursday, beginning October 24.....	7:00 pm
*Except November 24:.....	4:20 pm

EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday, September 16.....	6:55 pm
Shabbat, September 17.....	6:40 pm
Sunday – Friday, September 18-23.....	6:45 pm
Shabbat, September 24.....	6:30 pm
Sunday – Tuesday, September 25-27.....	7:40 pm
Wednesday, Sept. 28 – Shabbat, Oct. 8 see Holiday Schedule	
Sunday, October 9.....	6:20 pm
Monday-Tuesday, October 10-11.....	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 12 – Shabbat, Oct. 22 see Holiday Schedule	
Sunday, October 23.....	5:55 pm
Friday, October 28.....	5:45 pm
Shabbat, October 29.....	5:30 pm

Sunday, October 30.....	5:45 pm
Friday, November 4.....	5:40 pm
Shabbat, November 5.....	5:25 pm
Sunday, November 6.....	4:35 pm
Friday, November 11.....	4:30 pm
Shabbat, November 12.....	4:15 pm
Sunday, November 13.....	4:30 pm
Friday, November 18.....	4:25 pm
Shabbat, November 19.....	4:10 pm
Sunday, November 20.....	4:25 pm

Thank You

Yasher koach to Rabbi Adamit for repairing the Sefer Torah that broke in the small sanctuary.

Many thanks to all our dear friends for your good wishes on the birth of our new granddaughter, Mushka, to our daughter Chanie and her husband Levi Levertov, and upon the graduation of our daughter Chaya Mushkah and our son Yisroel.
May we always and only share happy occasions with you all.

Rabbi Aaron and Rivky Slonim

E-Mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com

Web Site: BethDavid.org

CHAI LINE

INSIDE

Sisterhood	2
“Nine Days” & Tish'a B'Av ..	2
Tish'a B'Av Schedule	4
Beth David Family.....	3
Minyan Schedule	4

"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME LIII, ISSUE 1

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Rosh Hashanah, 2011-5772

From the Rabbi

On Rosh Hashanah, each individual is judged on the merit of his deeds; whether we will live out the year or not, whether we will have financial success or ruin, whether we will be healthy or ill. All of these are determined on Rosh Hashanah.

God gave us the month of Elul — the month preceding Rosh Hashanah, to begin a period of intensive introspection, of clarifying life's goals, and of coming closer to God. It is a time for realizing purpose in life — rather than perfunctorily going through the motions of living by amassing money and seeking gratification. It is a time when we step back and look at ourselves critically and honestly, as Jews have from time immemorial, with the intention of improving.

The four Hebrew letters of the word Elul are the first letters of the four words *Ani l'dodi v'dodi lee* — “I am to my Beloved and my Beloved is to me” (Song of Songs 6:3). These words sum up the relationship between God and His people.

In other words, the month preceding Rosh Hashanah is a time when God reaches out to us, in an effort to create a more spiritually inspiring atmosphere, one that stimulates teshuva. To increase the awareness and awe of this period of time, on the second day of Rosh Chodesh Elul, it is customary to blow the shofar every morning after prayers, in order to awaken us for the coming Day of Judgement. The shofar's wailing sound inspires us to use the opportunity of Elul to its fullest. Also beginning in Elul, we say Psalm 27 in the morning and evening services. In this Psalm, King David exclaims: “One thing I ask... is to dwell in the house of God all the days of my life.” We focus on the unifying force of God in our lives, and strive to increase our connection to the infinite transcendent dimension.

Finally, the most important aspect of Elul is to make a plan for your life. Because when the Big Day comes, and each individual stands before the Almighty to ask for another year, we'll want to know what we're asking for!

Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Aminadav Adamit

Give Double Chai

We love our sponsors. We ask for your support and you give it wholeheartedly with your double *Chai* contribution for sponsorship and/or a *Chai* contribution for a thank you. *Todah rabah* and *yasher koach* to you all.

Because of you the *ChaiLine* is self-supporting and does not take money out of the shul coffers.

To keep us in this position, sponsors are needed for future issues. Your \$36 donation, for a sponsorship, or \$180 donation to be a **special sponsor**, sent to the shul office before the next deadline (12/4/11) is all that is required. If you wish to say thank you to everyone, just send \$18 along with your message to the shul or directly to me (mserkin@stny.rr.com).

For more information, call me at 729-3235 and I will explain it further.

A happy, healthy, and sweet New Year to all our readers.

Marlene Serkin

From the President

I want to welcome you back from hopefully a very good summer, but it is a sobering moment as I write this article. Today is 9/11 which is in itself one of America's darkest moments and if that is not enough our community is devastated again by terrible flooding. Our shul has again been spared; we have no damage from the flood, but so many in our community are not as fortunate. I propose that our synagogue as a whole make a contribution to the less fortunate, I will make the necessary calls and we will email you as to how we will go about doing this mitzvah.

September is the start of our new year and we are planning our calendar with enthusiasm. The luncheons and speakers on the second Shabbat of each month are in full swing; Dora Polachek is working to find excellent speakers for the year. Please remember to contribute to this excellent program so we may continue to offer this to our congregation and the community. Charlie Manasse will be starting the Men's Club meetings soon with new ideas to delight us and Claire Ladenheim and her sisterhood board I am sure have great programs planned for the year.

I am looking forward to a very good year and I want to start by thanking the many people that make this all possible by contributing so much time and hard work for our shul.

Two of our very dear friends, Dora and Steve Feuer, will be leaving our community to make their permanent home in Florida. I cannot express how deeply you will be missed. You have both been treasures in our synagogue and in our community; it brings tears to my eyes to think I will not see your warm smiles when I come to shul. You are beloved by all of us and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done for us at Beth David. We will sincerely miss you and we wish you only happiness in your home in Florida.

Wishing you all a very happy healthy and peaceful New Year.
Saba Wiesner, President

Thanks to our Sponsors

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

Marie Werner in honor of all those who had Simchas in the past year

Marcy & Gaby Yonaty in memory of Ceil Newman

Rita Shawn wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year

Steve & Rika Katz wishing all our friends at Beth David a sweet and happy year

BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE
39 Riverside Drive
Binghamton, NY 13905
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Binghamton, NY 13905
PERMIT NO. 228

High Holidays Customs and Practices

The month of Elul: A month before Rosh Hashanah we begin preparing for the Day of Judgment. We blow the *shofar* each weekday morning, with the exception of Erev Rosh Hashanah, and add Psalm 27 into our prayers each morning and evening, in order to begin awakening within us feelings of repentance.

Selichot: Penitential prayers are recited each weekday morning until Yom Kippur. We begin reciting these prayers at a special midnight service on Saturday night, September 24.

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Keeping promises is a requirement in Judaism. In order to start the year with a clean slate, many have the custom to nullify vows they may have made, and have forgotten about or due to changed circumstances have been unable to fulfill, before a tribunal of three men. Some wait until Erev Yom Kippur to observe this custom. Men customarily go to the *Mikveh* and the Beth David *Mikveh* will be available during the day for this purpose.

Eruv Tavshilin – The Mixing of Cooked Foods: The Biblical prohibition against labor on the Holidays and 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 Erev Rosh Hashanah, Erev Sukkot, and Hoshana Rabba (Erev Shemini Atzeret).

With a *challah* or roll and any other cooked food in hand (such as fish or a hard boiled egg), we recite a blessing and declaration as is found in the siddur. This must be performed before Yom Tov candles are lit.

Rosh Hashanah: The celebration of the New Year commemorates the creation of the world. Also known as *Yom Hazikaron* (the Day of Remembrance) and *Yom Hadin* (the Day of Judgment), we stand before God and pray that we be granted another year of life and good health. The main mitzvah of the day is the requirement to hear the sounding of the *shofar* on both days of Rosh Hashanah. It is customary to dip our challah in honey, eat apples dipped in honey at the evening meals, and eat a new fruit of the second night of Rosh Hashanah. Various other foods are eaten on Rosh Hashanah that symbolize our hopes for the coming year. *Tashlich* is recited on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah by a pool of water that preferably has fish in it. These prayers are symbolic of the casting away of our mistakes.

Shabbat Shuvah: “The Shabbat of Repentance” is the name given to the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, taken from the opening phrase of the haftarah. It is customary for the rabbi to present a lecture on the topic of repentance, which is attended by men and women.

Tzom Gedaliah: This fast day observed the day after Rosh Hashanah (this year it is observed on Sunday as it is deferred because the day after Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat) was instituted in commemoration of the assassination of Gedaliah Ben Achikam, the Governor of Israel during the days of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylonia. As a result of Gedaliah’s death the final vestiges of Judean autonomy after the Babylonian conquest were destroyed, many thousands of Jews were slain, and the remaining Jews were driven into final exile. The fast is observed from dawn until night.

Erev Yom Kippur: We prepare for atonement by performing the custom of *Kaparot* with the money given to the poor. It is customary to increase our gifts to charity and for men to immerse in the *Mikveh*. The Beth David Mikveh will be open for this purpose. A festive meal is completed before the beginning of *Kol Nidrei*. Candles lasting the entire holiday are lit for deceased parents.

Yom Kippur: A day of prayer and introspection; we refrain from bodily pleasure and devote ourselves to spirituality. We restrict ourselves from eating and drinking, washing, applying oils or lotions to the skin, marital relations, and wearing leather shoes. In case of medical needs, please consult the rabbi. *Yizkor* is recited during the morning service. All Shabbat prohibitions apply on Yom Kippur.

Sukkot: Also known as *z’man simchateinu*, the holiday of joy, we celebrate the successful conclusion of Yom Kippur with two special mitzvot. We erect and dwell in a *Sukkah* for the entire seven days, and the mitzvah is observed primarily by eating all regular meals in the structure. We gather the special four species, the *etrog*, *lulav* (palm branch), *hadassim* (myrtle), and *aravot* (willow), wave them during *Hallel* and march around the synagogue each day during Hoshanot services, except for Shabbat. If you need advice on *Sukkah* construction, please consult the rabbis. The four species may be ordered through the synagogue office.

Eruv Tavshilin- The Mixing of Cooked Foods: This must be performed this year on Erev Sukkot, and Hoshana Rabba (Erev Shemini Atzeret). See above after “*Erev Rosh Hashanah*” for details and instructions.

Hoshana Rabba: The seventh day of *Sukkot* is marked by walking around the synagogue seven times holding the four species and special prayers for water are recited after which we beat the aravot. This day is considered the day when the final judgment for the year is sealed; therefore synagogue attendance is strongly encouraged.

Due to its solemn nature, some have the custom of studying Torah the night before.

Shmini Atzeret: A special holiday added after Sukkot, there are no special ritual symbols on this day. *Tefillat Geshem* – the prayer for rain – is a solemn addition to the *Musaf* service. Most continue to eat all meals in the *sukkah*. We no longer wave the four species. *Yizkor* is recited during the morning service.

Simchat Torah: On this day we conclude the yearly cycle of Torah reading, and we rejoice and dance with the Torah scrolls. A uniquely festive and joyous event, the *hakafot* (dancing with the Torah) are performed both in the evening and morning. Children and adults alike enjoy the festivities and celebration.

Sisterhood

The summer is gone, and unfortunately, it went out with a very wet bang. By the time you read this, many may have forgotten about the devastation wrought by Hurricane Irene and even more so, by the terrific flooding. I truly hope that none of us were badly affected by either of these events and that everyone is safe and sound.

Our rummage sale this past August was a victim of one of the rainstorms that kept sweeping through the area. Although attendance was less than anticipated, we didn’t do too badly. Read more about this in Marlene Serkin’s article. A lot of our customers, who are very loyal, came on Monday and Tuesday to make up for the shortfall. As usual, Marlene did a fantastic job, and had many volunteers to help her.

The Program Committee, chaired by Meryl Sasnowitz, has been busy scheduling some innovative programs. Watch out for your fliers; make note of the time and dates and save them. Come to the meetings and enjoy some interesting and stimulating programs and camaraderie. Our September meeting, which I am sure will be a lot of fun, will have already occurred when you read this. There is no October meeting because of the holidays. November is the Paid-Up Membership Dinner, and December is the always interesting InterSisterhood night. Mark your calendars: Sisterhood is up and running again!

Sam and I would like to wish everyone a Shana Tovah. A good year, a happy year, a year of good health, a year of doing Mitzvot, and a year of loving and caring for each other. May we all be inscribed for such a good year.

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Ami & Mrs. Sarah Lynn Adamit on the marriage of their son Gilad to Batsheva
Howard & Ruth Buschman on the marriage of their granddaughter Dora Feuer thanking her for her thoughtfulness
Gerry & Susan Hubal on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Josh
Mark & Shelly Hubal on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Josh
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of their granddaughter
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of their grandson
Sondra Weitsman thanking her for her thoughtfulness
Michael and Saba Wiesner on their granddaughter, Skylar, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Michael & Susan Wright on the marriage of their daughter Natania to Dmitry Ostrovsky
Natania Wright & Dmitry Ostrovsky on their marriage

Refuah Shelemah to:

David Roth Irwin Simon

Condolences to:

Peggy Marcus in memory of her husband, Elliot
Elizabeth Rappaport in memory of her husband, Joseph
Claire Shefftz in memory of her husband, Melvin

Beth David Family

As I write, the mighty waters of the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers are swirling downstream at record setting heights. Islands of houses stand in mud laden waters as we watch in amazement. Nature’s serene sounds are replaced by the staccato rhythm of sump pumps and wet vacs. Riverside Drive became Fifth Avenue where slack jawed camera toters replaced fashionable spring hat wearers. What a contrast – the beauty of the surrounding hills and the destructive power of the water. Rabbi Zev and Judy Silber enjoyed a couple of weeks meandering the countryside and visiting their children in Staten Island and Long Island. Arieh Ullmann returned refreshed from his summer teaching position at Israel’s Technion. Barbara and Les Bank combined a visit with their extended family in South Africa with tours of other areas of the continent for a month long African getaway. Elaine and Jerry Cohen’s stay in Israel was enhanced by time they spent with Janet and Ken Wilson. This was Elaine’s first journey to our Holy Land.

Returning tired and dirty from sleep-away camp, some of our younger members regaled us with stories of their adventures. We welcome home Elisa and Michael Alweis, Melanie Tuberman, and Jacqueline Karp (whose camp experience included a summer trip to Israel). While some vacationed elsewhere, others joined our Triple Cities countryside to unwind. Many of us, including yours truly, housed family and friends visiting for a bit of country air. Marlene Serkin hosted former Binghamtonians Ruth and Ed Sacher, now of Montreal. Hadassah Groner Lebowitz, her husband David, and their children of Modiin, Israel, walked down memory lane on the streets of Binghamton. And while I’m mentioning the Groner family, much of the Binghamton buzz this summer was about Eliyahu’s appointment as Israel’s Economic Envoy to Washington. The appointment, considered the prime economics position for Israeli envoys abroad, was unanimously approved by the Israeli government. Mazal Tov to Eliyahu (Eli) and Tamar Groner, and to his parents Debbie and Raphael Groner of Jerusalem. We’re all proud of our hometown boy!

Phyllis Ansell Paushter sent news of her family. Her son David, Chief Medical Officer at Rush Presb. Hospital in Chicago, wrote a well-reviewed published memoir titled *County: Life, Death and Politics at Chicago’s Public Hospital*. Phyllis has two granddaughters in med school, following in the footsteps of their grandfather Gerald (z’l). We bid *L’hitraot* to Dora and Steve Feuer who decided to make Florida their permanent home, and to Jay Frenkel, who accepted a job in NYC. In their 40+ years at Beth David, the Feuers’ dedication to the shul certainly left its mark. They were devoted behind the scenes doers. In Jay’s short tenure in our town, he showed us what a special community we have with his active involvement in the OU’s Community Fair. All of them will be missed.

Elisa and Jordan Gurevich of CT welcomed a girl, Sydney Claire, into their family. Mazal Tov to them and to grandparents Roz and Harry Wiesel. Janet and Moshe Sharmyahu of Elkanah added two grandchildren to their family tree, Eden and Nitzan. Channi and Levi Levertov of Phoenix had a baby girl, Mushka. Grandparents Rivky and Aaron Slonim are delighted that the Levertovs’ summer visit to Vestal culminated in a grand Slonim Family reunion weekend in Vestal. Grandparents Marion and Shmuel Morell relate that Varda and Eitan Morell of Israel had a girl, Channa, this summer. May each of the babies be blessed to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, to chuppah, and to 120 in good health, and may all the families continue to shep nachas!

Elisheva Morell, of Monsey, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah among family and friends. Mazal Tov to her, her parents Beth and Avi, and her grandparents Marion and Shmuel Morell. Saba and Mike Wiesner and Doris Zolty kvelled at the Vestal Bat Mitzvah of their grand/great-granddaughter Skylar, daughter of Annette and Lawrence Wiesner and sister of Gina and Amylia. Our good wishes go to the entire family. Amidst the tragedy of record flooding, a light shone as Joshua Hubal, son of Shelley and Mark, and grandson of Susan and Jerry Hubal celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. Mazal Tov to the entire Hubal family, including Josh’s sister Molly.

Mazal Tov to Elaine Green on her retirement from the B-T BOCES teaching staff. May she be blessed with good health to enjoy much time with her family, including children Samara, a teacher in Virginia, and Bryan, a Texas businessman. Rabbi Ami and Sarah Lynn Adamit, Achi, and Ayal traveled to Israel for the wedding of Gilad to Batsheva Davis of South Florida. Many former Binghamtonians attended the *simcha*. Susan and Michael Wright and Kerry Wright didn’t have far to travel for the wedding of their daughter/sister Natania to Dmitry Ostrovsky. The Yonkers’ wedding was attended by a whole caravan of Binghamton guests. May each of the couples build a *bayit n’man b’Yisroel*.

Refuah shelemah to Irwin Simon and Toby Kohn. With sadness I note the passing of Steven Greenberg, the brother of Debra Greenberg-Strano. May Debra and her entire family find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. May we each take time from mopping our basements to give pause for introspection during this month of Elul leading up to Rosh Hashanah, and may you each be inscribed and sealed for a good year. *K’tiva v’chatima tova*.

Meryl Sasnowitz

Contributions

General Fund from:

Shelly Goldman Black in honor of Marlene Serkin’s 80th birthday
The Ruchames Family in honor or the marriage of Batsheva & Gilad Adamait
Ben Rouff & Isabelle Levene in honor of the birth of a grandson and granddaughter to Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz
Susan & Gerry Hubal wishing Marcy Yonaty continued good health
Susan & Gerry Hubal wishing Fred Weitsman a Refuah Shelemah

Shul Beautiful to:

Steve & Dora Feuer on their 45th Wedding Anniversary, from Gabi & Marcy Yonaty
Peggy Marcus in memory of her husband, Elliot, from Steve & Dora Feuer

Eli Groner

Eli (Eliyahu) Groner, son of Rabbi Raphael and Debby Groner, of Jerusalem, Israel, formerly of Binghamton, has been named as Israel’s economic attaché in Washington.

How to Contact Your Rabbi

Rabbi Silber’s office hours will change this year, due to his Hillel Academy teaching schedule.

The new hours are: Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm and Thursdays, 9:00-11:00 am.

Please feel free to stop by at these times, even without an appointment. If you need to consult with the rabbi and these times are not convenient for you, please call Rabbi Silber and you can work out a mutually acceptable time.

Occasionally these hours need to change, and changes are listed in the weekly announcement sheet distributed each Shabbat at services.

If you need to contact one of the rabbis, there are several ways that this can be done:
• Call the shul office (722-1793) and leave a message with Shirley who will contact them.
• Call the shul office (722-1793) and leave a confidential message on the voice mail. Press #2 for Rabbi Silber’s mail box or #3 for Rabbi Adamit’s mail box. The rabbis check their voice mail frequently.
• If it is not urgent, you can e-mail the rabbis at rabbisilber@stny.rr.com or rabbiadamit@stny.rr.com
• In case of emergency on a school day, you can call Hillel Academy (722-9274) and leave a message for either or both Rabbi Silber and/or Rabbi Adamit.
• In case of emergency at other times, you can call the rabbis’ cell phone: Rabbi Silber can be reached at 761-7098 and Rabbi Adamit can be reached at 237-3690.

Cemetary Visitation

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

In keeping with tradition, Rabbi Silber will be at the Beth David Cemetary, located on Conklin Road, on Sunday, September 25 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, to assist people in reciting memorial prayers.

If this time is not convenient for you, please contact the Rabbi to make alternative arrangements.

Lulav & Eetrog Sets

This Sukkot get your own Lulav and etrog set and get in on the enjoyment.

Please place your order with shul no later than Sunday, October 2

We will only have sets for those people who order in advance.