

# May-July Minyan Times

Mornings (times constant)*	
Sunday.....	8:30 am
Monday-Friday.....	6:40 am
*Except May 19,20.....	see Shavuot schedule
*Except May 14, July 12.....	6:30 am
*Except May 31.....	8:30 am
Shabbat.....	9:00 am
Evenings (times constant)	
Friday.....	7:15 pm
Evenings (times vary)	
Sunday--Thursday, May 9-13.....	7:55 pm
Shabbat, May 15.....	7:50 pm
Sunday-Monday, May 16-17.....	8:05 pm
Tuesday-Thursday, May 18-20.....	see Shavuot schedule
Shabbat, May 22.....	7:55 pm
Sunday--Thursday, May 23-27.....	8:10 pm
Shabbat, May 29.....	8:00 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 13-17.....	8:15 pm
Sunday-Thursday May 30-June 3.....	8:10 pm
Shabbat, June 5, 12.....	8:20 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 6-10.....	8:25 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 13-17.....	8:15 pm
Sunday- Thursday, June 19-July 10.....	8:30 pm
Tuesday, June 29.....	8:15 pm
Wednesday-Thursday, June 30-July 1.....	8:30 pm
Sunday-Thursday, July 4-15.....	8:25 pm
Shabbat, July 17.....	8:10 pm
Sunday, July 18.....	8:20 pm
Monday July 19.....	<i>Mincha @ 6:15 pm</i>
<i>Fast Begins @ 8:36 pm</i> .....	<i>Ma'ariv &amp; Eicha @ 9:15 pm</i>
Tuesday, July 20.....	8:05 pm, <i>Fast ends.</i> 9:17 pm
Wednesday-Thursday, July 21-22.....	8:20 pm
Shabbat, July 24.....	8:05 pm
Sunday - Tuesday, July 25-29.....	8:10 pm
Shabbat, July 31.....	7:55 pm

# Shavuot Schedule

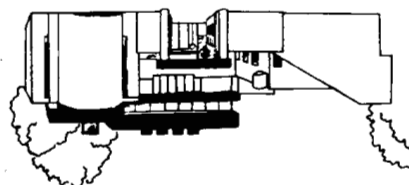
Thursday, May 28	Candle lighting.....	8:02 pm
	Mincha/Maariv.....	8:05 pm
	<i>Tikun Leil Shavuot-</i> <i>All night Torah study begins.....</i>	11:30 pm
Friday, May 29	Shacharit.....	9:00 am
	Candle lighting.....	after 9:03 pm
	Mincha/Ma'ariv.....	8:05 pm
Shabbat, May 30	Shacharit.....	9:00 am
	Yizkor.....	approximately 10:45 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv.....	8:05 pm
	Yom Tov ends.....	9:04 pm

## Calendar of Events

May 12 (Wed.).....	Sisterhood Donor
May 18 (Tues.).....	Erev Shavuot
May 19 (Wed.).....	Shavuot
May 20 (Thurs.).....	Yizkor, Shavuot Luncheon
May 23 (Sun.).....	Annual Shul Dinner
June 9 (Wed.).....	Sisterhood Closing Dinner
June 12 (Sat.).....	Luncheon

0102, 2010  
ANNUAL SHUL DINNER  
\*SAVE THE DATE\*

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



E-Mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com

Web Site: BethDavid.org

# CHAI LINE

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## "The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME LI, ISSUE 5

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

May/Shavuot - 2010/5770

## From the Rabbi

Everyone knows the connection between Purim and shalach manot to Purim. Pesach is connected to *Kol Dichfin* (inviting the poor to the Seder). On Sukkot we invite friends, poor, and converts to our sukkah. All of the above deal with *tzedakah*. What about Shavuot? Is their a connection to *tzedakah*? Absolutely! The source for this is in the book *Vayikra*, chapter 22, where the Torah mentions the holidays. There, the Torah mentions the holiday of Shavuot, the Omer, and the *Bikurim*, and in the end, the Torah commands us that when we harvest our fields we must leave some of it to the poor and to the convert. The Rabbis are surprised by it and ask what is the connection between Shavuot and *tzedakah*? The rabbis give some responses to this. The first one they say is that if Shavuot is the holiday of receiving the Torah, surely *tzedakah* would be the core of the holiday. They say that the whole Torah revolves around *tzedakah* and *chesed* (kindness) and therefore the holiday of Torah should revolve with it as well. It is as if the Torah commands us to be careful when we are involved with the *mitzvot* of Shavuot. We shouldn't forget that the essence of the Torah is *tzedakah*. On Shavuot we establish our philosophy of life with the title of the first commandment: "I am *HaShem* your God". In this commandment *HaShem* tells us: the land is mine, I gave it to you as a loan. You are not the owner because you don't even own yourself. In this world you are only an employee of God. Part of your harvest belongs to me, to the poor and to the needy. As Rabbi Soloveitchik said that the ultimate goal of the Torah is not only that you and I give *tzedakah* but that you and I become masters of *tzedakah*. *HaShem* wants us to be people who are charitable, kind, and humane. And this is the reason why the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* ends with the words: "I am *HaShem* your God." because only God knows if you and I changed so our change would make the world better.

Happy Shavuot  
Rabbi Ami Adomit

## From the President

The lovely month of May is bringing such fun things to attend at our shul. Starting with our monthly luncheon on May 8th with our own Aaron Alweis as the speaker, I know it will be very interesting. May 12th is the Sisterhood Donor Dessert at the home of Lori Tuberman, with delicious home made desserts and a program featuring Sima Auerbach and Toni Grekin. It will be special.

The beautiful holiday of Shavuot is on May 19 and 20 with a dairy lunch, prepared by Marcy Yonaty and her committee, being served on Thursday, May 20.

The Annual Beth David Dinner, honoring Susan and Michael Wright, is on May 23 at 2:00 PM. The earlier time is to accommodate out of town guests of the honorees that will be attending.

Please come and celebrate all of the occasions, it will be fun.

As a huge favor to me, please send back your response cards for the dinner so that the caterer has plenty of time to order the necessary items. Thank you.

Saba Wiesner, President

## Give Double Chai

Thank you for responding so well to the requests for double *Chai* sponsorship of the *ChaiLine*. Your sponsorship has made this newsletter self-supporting. Let us hope we can continue in this vein.

To be a sponsor, send a \$36 check, made out to Beth David Synagogue, with the information for your sponsorship, to the synagogue before the next deadline (6/27/10).

To have a thank you published, send a check for \$18, with the correct information.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Shavuot.

Marlene Serkin, *ChaiLine* coordinator

## Thanks to the Sponsors

Marcy & Gabi Yonaty in memory of Toni Began

\*THANKS\*

Ruth Groh would like to thank everyone for the cards and messages sent wishing her a *refuah shelemah*.

## Shavuot Issue

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# Sisterhood

Our April meeting featured Beth David's own, Aaron Alweis, speaking about his job as Senior Court reporter of New York State. It was truly a fascinating talk with much audience interest and participation.

Coming up in May, some of which will have taken place by the time you read this, is our Rummage Sale on May 2, 3 and 4. Marlene Serkin chairs this and not only does she work indefatigably the days of the sale, but she expends a great deal of time and effort preparing for it. Hopefully, she will have the help of many volunteers, as she usually has, and it will be successful.

May 12 is our annual Donor Dessert evening which will take place at the home of Lori Tuberman. Not only will the desserts be delicious (I am baking) but a fun evening has been planned. Toni Grekin and Sima Auerbach will be speaking about How two nice Jewish girls from Brooklyn came to run a summer camp in Deposit, NY. Don't miss this event. It is a major fund raiser of Sisterhood. Call Marlene, 729-3235, for reservations. A minimum Donor pledge of \$25 is requested.

On May 20, the second day of Shavuot, we will have our annual Shavuot luncheon, again chaired by Marcy Yonaty who has returned from wintering in Florida. More delectable food. It does seem as if Sisterhood is always planning events around food. And why not? We have some very good cooks among our members. All are welcome to the luncheon and there is no charge.

As if this weren't enough, June 9 is our closing dinner to be prepared by Rivky Slonim, no mean chef herself. Please join us before the summer hiatus.

Meanwhile, Happy Shavuot to all, with good eating and good friendship. Hope to see you at all events!

Claire Ladenheim, Sisterhood President

## Customs and Practices for the "Three Weeks"

**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 should 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.

Since the next ChaiLine will first appear after this period begins, we will mention only the customs observed until Rosh Chodesh Av. Those that first apply after that date will be described in the summer edition.

**When:** The 3 weeks begin on 17 Tammuz, which occurs on Tuesday, June 29, and continue through 9 Av, which occurs on Tuesday, July 20.

**The fast of 17 Tammuz:** This day is observed as a fast day, with the fast beginning in the morning at 4:18 am and ending at nightfall, at 9:26 pm.

**Mourning practices:** During the entire 3-week period we do not conduct weddings, we refrain from haircuts, and we avoid listening to live music.

# Mitzvah Fund

Toby Kohn, 754-4297 or [tgkohn@stny.rr.com](mailto:tgkohn@stny.rr.com)

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:  
**Mazel Tov to:**

Aaron Alweis in appreciation of his presentation to Sisterhood

Barry Newman in honor of the birth of his granddaughter

Zehava Schechter on her marriage to Sam Richter

Rabbi and Judy Silber in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary

**Refuah Shelemah to:**

Ruth Groh

Leonard Preston

**Condolences to:**

Marge Dosik in memory of her husband, Louis.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO DINNER THE FIRST NIGHT OF SHAVUOT Tuesday, MAY 18**

JOIN US FOR SERVICES, DINNER AND STAY FOR AT LEAST ONE TORAH STUDY SESSION, AND THE DINNER IS ON US!

Reservations **required** by Friday, May 14!  
RSVP to [rabbisilber@stny.rr.com](mailto:rabbisilber@stny.rr.com) or 761-7098

*Dinner Sponsored by Rabbi Zev and Judy Silber*

## Shavuot Customs and Practices

**When:** Shavuot begins on Tuesday, May 18th at night, and lasts through the day of Thursday, May 20th.

**Candle Lighting:** As with every Yom Tov, we light candles each night of the holiday, reciting the two *brachot* – one for the holiday (*l'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov*) and the *Shehecheyanu*. *Shehecheyanu* is also recited at the end of Kiddush.

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot:** Since Shavuot commemorates the revelation at Mount Sinai and the acceptance of the Torah, there is a beautiful, time-honored custom to stay awake the entire night of the first day of Shavuot and study Torah. Beth David will host various Torah study groups and lectures the night of May 18, beginning at 11:30 pm. Refreshments will be available to help all attendees remain awake and alert. Those awake all night in Torah studies often participate in a sunrise *Shacharit* service. This service is held at our shul only if there is assurance that the regular service can be conducted properly.

**Megillat Rut:** There is a custom to read the scroll of Ruth on the second day of Shavuot. Ruth, who was a convert, accepted the Torah just as the Jews did at Sinai. She was also the great grandmother of King David, who was born, and died on Shavuot. We read the *megillah* before the Torah service.

**Dairy Foods:** There is a custom to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. Thus, the annual Beth David Sisterhood Shavuot lunch on the second day of Shavuot will be dairy.

# Beth David Family

How can we ever top the glorious Pesach weather we had? It was a delight to see our young guests frolicking outside sans coats. Warm weather seders were a true delight!

A Purim daughter, Esther Malka, was born to Chaya and Gershon Berkowitz. Grandparents Jackie and Mark Berkowitz and great-grandparents Marion and Norman Rudin are delighted. Marion and Norman are also kvelling over the marriage of their grandson Andy, son of Sue Feuerstein and Louie Rudin, to Adina Dovinsky. Shabbat prior to the wedding day was challenging as the Teaneck Rudins and the Teaneck Dovinskys were without power thanks to New Jersey's torrential rains. The skies cleared for the Sunday wedding, everyone pitched in to help with blackout needs, and the wedding was *freilich* (joyous). A modern day wedding twist coupled technology with *halacha* (Jewish law) at the marriage of Avi Staiman and Gabz Fine in Jerusalem as grandparents Naomi and Sholom Staiman "participated" via the web from their home in Hollywood Florida. Grandpa Sholom "spoke" under the *chuppah* as was prearranged by the groom's parents Chana and Jeremy Staiman of Baltimore. May the couples each build a *bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael* (a true Jewish home).

Two of our shul SUNY graduate students, Ani Lucia and Brad Lipitz, celebrated their recent engagement with a *L'Chaim* (a toast) one evening at Beth David. They are regular shul goers whose joy we all share. Baruch Weiss, son of Gella and Ron Weiss, of Toronto, became engaged. And a *special* birthday is wished to Chaim Joy.

Debbie and Raphael Groner traveled from their Jerusalem home for some R & R in South Florida where they saw the Hubals and the Schachters. Mel and Barbara Rozen of South Florida happily report they have a combined 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Mel's daughter and son-in-law Michelle and Yerachmiel Donowitz of Atlanta are responsible for most of the progeny. Sam Horwitz writes from his Palm Beach County Florida home that his grandson Joey will marry this May. Many of us remember three-year-old Joey running around Beth David, just as we recall Andy Rudin as a toddler. Sam mentioned Cheryl Sunness is recovering well near her brother Eric in Fort Collins, CO. Sam was trained by the VA as a Service Officer and volunteers for the JWV and DAV at the local VA medical center.

Snowbirds were warmly greeted as they returned to Beth David. It's good to see Ruth and Howard Buschman, Marcy and Gabi Yonaty, and Sheldon Edison once again. This was the first winter Sheldon allowed himself a ten week sojourn in Deerfield Beach.

Barbara and Les Bank traveled to Seattle to *shepp nachas* (have joy and pride) as Jenni sang with the opera company. They then relaxed in Sedona, AZ before they headed to Cancun for the wedding of Eric Rosenberg, the son of Maxine and Louie Rosenberg. Dora and Steve Feuer toured Israel and returned to their Florida home before they, too, went to the wedding in Mexico.

Toby and Harold Kohn spent a joyous two weeks in Israel. Amidst all their sight-seeing, they managed to spend two Shabbat lunches with Janet and Ken Wilson, Charna and Pinchas Oppenheim, Claire Goldstein, and Paul Serkin. Sol Polocheck is spending this semester as a Visiting Scholar at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, MA. Dora manages to visit the fair city twice a month.

*Refuah shelemah* (a full and speedy recovery) to Ruth Groh who is convalescing at Good Shepherd Fairview Home.

As we commemorate our receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai, may each of us renew the relevance of the Torah's teachings to our daily lives.

If you wish to share any news with our Beth David Family, please contact me at [msasnowitz@stny.rr.com](mailto:msasnowitz@stny.rr.com) for inclusion in this column.

Meryl Sasnowitz

# Contributions

**General Fund from:**

Bob & Maria Kutz wishing Ruth Groh a speedy recovery

Saba Wiesner in memory of the wife of Omri Yigal

Michael & Saba Wiesner for the continued good health of Steven Feuer's mother

**Ansell Tikun Torah Fund from:**

Matthew & Phyllis Ansell Paushter for the good health of Ben Ansell

**Shul Beautiful to:**

Charna & Pinchas Oppenheim in appreciation from Toby & Harold Kohn

Rabbi & Judy Silber in appreciation from Toby & Harold Kohn

Ken & Janet Wilson, in appreciation from Toby & Harold Kohn

## NOTES:

Thanks to an anonymous donor for purchasing a Cuisinart Food Processor for the meat kitchen.

If you have misplaced eyeglasses (prescription, sun, reading) check the office. There are 7 pair of glasses in the lost and found.

## Calling all Families with Graduates

Please contact Meryl Sasnowitz ([msasnowitz@stny.rr.com](mailto:msasnowitz@stny.rr.com)) with the names of this year's grads, ranging from pre-school through college and beyond. If you'd like to participate in this year's graduates' kiddush on June 19th, contact Miriam Alweis at 724-6968.

## Shul Calendar

Work on the shul calendar will be starting soon. If you have any additions and/or changes for the calendar please email Dan Gold at [dangold@stny.rr.com](mailto:dangold@stny.rr.com)

## Save the Date

JFS Lunch & Learn  
Wednesday, June 23, 2010  
12:00 pm  
at the Jewish Community Center  
More information to follow