

December-March Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)*	
Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
*Except November 28; December 25; January 1	8:30 am
*Except December 3-4; January 2, 31; March 3	6:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am
EVENINGS (times constant)	
Monday – Thursday	7:00 pm
*Except November 28; December 25	4:20 pm
*Except January 1	4:30 pm
EVENINGS (times vary)	
Friday, November 22	4:20 pm
Shabbat, November 23	4:10 pm
Sunday, November 24	4:20 pm
Thursday, November 28	4:20 pm
Friday, November 29	4:15 pm
Shabbat, November 30	4:05 pm
Sunday, December 1	4:20 pm
Friday, December 6	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 7	4:00 pm
Sunday, December 8	4:15 pm
Friday, December 13	4:00 pm
Shabbat, December 14	4:05 pm
Sunday, December 15	4:20 pm
Friday, December 20	4:20 pm
Shabbat, December 21	4:05 pm
Sunday, December 22	4:20 pm
Wednesday, December 25	4:20 pm
Friday, December 27	4:25 pm
Shabbat, December 28	4:10 pm
Sunday, December 29	4:25 pm

Wednesday, January 1	4:30 pm
Friday, January 3	4:30 pm
Shabbat, January 4	4:15 pm
Sunday, January 5	4:30 pm
Friday, January 10	4:35 pm
Shabbat, January 11	4:25 pm
Sunday, January 12	4:40 pm
Friday, January 17	4:45 pm
Shabbat, January 18	4:30 pm
Sunday, January 19	4:45 pm
Friday, January 24	4:50 pm
Shabbat, January 25	4:40 pm
Sunday, January 26	4:55 pm
Friday, January 31	5:00 pm
Shabbat, February 1	4:50 pm
Sunday, February 2	5:05 pm
Friday, February 7	5:10 pm
Shabbat, February 8	4:55 pm
Sunday, February 9	5:15 pm
Friday, February 14	5:20 pm
Shabbat, February 15	5:05 pm
Sunday, February 16	5:25 pm
Friday, February 21	5:30 pm
Shabbat, February 22	5:15 pm
Sunday, February 23	5:30 pm
Friday, February 28	5:35 pm
Shabbat, March 1	5:25 pm
Sunday, March 2	5:40 pm
Friday, March 7	5:45 pm
Shabbat, March 8	5:30 pm
Sunday, March 9	6:50 pm

E-Mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com

Web Site: BethDavid.org

CHAI LINE

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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

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December-March, 2013/2014-5774

From the Rabbi

Thanksgiving! That is the name that pop culture has given to this year's unusual convergence of Thanksgiving and the first Day of Chanukah. It seems that this is the only time that this happens in our lifetimes, and never happened before. An explanation is in order.

In order for this to occur, Thanksgiving, under the current law, is always on the 4th Thursday of November. Therefore, the latest date on which Thanksgiving can occur is when the first day of November is on a Friday, and therefore, Thanksgiving is on November 28th, as it is this year. Chanukah must also be very early, and the first day of Chanukah, which can be any day of the week, happens to be on a Thursday.

This did occur once before, in 1861. However, there was no holiday of Thanksgiving yet as it was first proclaimed a national holiday by President Lincoln in 1863! Thanksgiving and Chanukah did coincide when Thanksgiving was celebrated on the last Thursday of the month, but not as is currently practiced – on the 4th Thursday.

The reason that it will not happen again is because the Jewish calendar is very slowly getting out of sync with the solar calendar, at the rate of 4 days every 1,000 years, so the earliest day on the solar calendar that Chanukah will occur keeps getting later and later, ever so slightly. For this combination – the 25th of Kislev, and the 28th of November to both be on the same Thursday, we will have to wait for the Jewish calendar to move forward through the Gregorian calendar until it loops back to where it is now, and then it will happen – in the year 79,811.

Yet, I am convinced that it will happen again much sooner. As Maimonides states in the 13th principal of faith – I believe in the coming of the Mashiach, and this can happen any day. I believe it will happen way before that time. At the arrival of the Mashiach we will stop using the current calendar which was calculated and designed 2,000 years ago and go back to the method described in the Torah where the High Court in Jerusalem will determine the new month based on testimony of the sighting of the moon, and they will realign the solar and lunar calendars which will enable this coincidence to occur again.

Yet, the convergence of the two holidays this year gives us much to think about. Thanksgiving is a holiday that recognizes the kindness of God who created and retains providence over the world, and has sustained our great nation of the United States of America. Chanukah is also a holiday of Thanksgiving, for we recall not only the great miracle of the oil but also that God made us victorious over those who attempted to prevent us from observing Judaism and a Torah way of life.

The miracle of the victory of the few and weak over the many and militarily powerful is a common theme in both the holiday of Chanukah and the secular holiday of Thanksgiving.

As we plan our Thanksgiving feast this year, I suggest that we delay the meal until after nightfall. We can begin by coming to shul at 4:20 pm for minyan and the public lighting of Chanukah candles, return home and light the Chanukah candles at home, which is the personal mitzvah, and then enjoy a delicious meal celebrating both holidays.

I wish you a *Chanukah Sameach* and Happy Thanksgiving!

Rabbi Zev Silber

From the President

Every once in a while I like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the board and members of our shul and our Rabbis for always being there for me. No matter what my request is, the answer is always positive. Whether it is help with a project, heading a committee, money for repairs, sponsoring a luncheon or just coming to work on whatever is wrong at the shul, the answer is "sure I will help." That is probably why I am still president after all these years. Thank you all for being so kind and helpful, it is very much appreciated.

There is another person in our community that I would like to comment on. It is with great admiration that I want to thank Neisen Luks, co-president of Temple Concord, for his desire to share with many of our local Jewish organizations a bequest that Temple Concord acquired. This pay it forward action by Neisen and the board at Temple Concord is so very admirable and shows how our Jewish Community has always shown kindness and friendship toward one another.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Chanukah and a lovely Thanksgiving.

Saba Wiesner, President

Give Double Chai

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Chanukah and Thanksgiving and remind you of how easy it is to be a sponsor of the *ChaiLine*.

Just send the appropriate donation, accompanied by your message, to the shul office, or to me, before the next deadline (February 23, 2014) and you will be included. The cost of **Special Sponsorship** is **\$180.00**; regular sponsorship is \$36.00, and a thank you is \$18.00.

A huge thank you goes out to those of you who regularly sponsor the *ChaiLine* and to those who occasionally sponsor. We need you all as your sponsorship keeps our newsletter from becoming a debit on the shul budget.

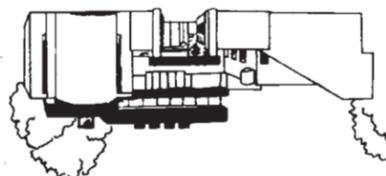
I hope to hear from you soon.

Marlene Serkin, *ChaiLine* coordinator

Thanks to our Sponsors

Ann Brilliant wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah
Sharon Groh-Mintz in honor of **Ruth and Bob Groh**
Rika and Steven Katz wishing all our friends at Beth David a Happy Chanukah
Marcy and Gaby Yonaty in memory of **Rita Rozen**
Chaim Joy and Cathy Velenchik in memory of Chaim's parents,
Dr. Robert and Nancy Joy

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Inter Sisterhood Meeting

Save the date... **Thursday, December 5, 2013**, for this year's Inter Sisterhood event. The program, "A, You're Adorable; B, You're So Beautiful" will begin at 7:30 pm at Temple Concord. All women in the community are invited and asked to bring a picture of themselves between the ages of 3 and 6. The pictures will be displayed as part of the program. Cost is \$5.00 per person. More information can be found on the enclosed flyer.

Save the Date

May 18, 2014

Beth David's Annual Dinner

Celebrating 50 years

At the

Riverside Drive Location

Watch for further details of the dinner and of a commemorative journal celebrating this event

Men's Club

Happy Turk-anuka-kwa-mas.

What's in a name? (Hopefully, I have been politically incorrect and insulted everybody.)

So, youse got a problem wit dat? Want to dialogue about it?

I will travel from my outpost in the hinterlands of Northern Broome County (I am on the Edge, but still on the Grid. I am not a Prepper, but on occasion, I make statements that will jar your grandmother's preserves) and meet you eyeball to eyeball over a Legendary

Breakfast

at Beth David Synagogue

9:15 AM, Sunday, December 8

Call in advance, so we know how many cups of our famous brewed (not instant) coffee to make.

Beth David Men's Group

..... needs to know if you are bringing anyone with you, so I can buy enough eggs, potatoes, lox, cream cheese, bagels, etc, etc, you know the drill. Place your order by Dec 4, or sooner and we will allow you to arrive earlier and we will give you at absolutely no extra charge, not even additional shipping and handling charges, a seat in the small sanctuary for minyan. Please hurry because this is a limited time offer, and only a limited number of seats are available. Send or bring \$8/person. So call me 765-3304 and let me know. If I do not answer, please do not leave nasty messages, National Security may be listening. We don't know yet, but ObamaCare may have provisions, regulations and/ or other ".....tions" about that.

So call me 765-3304, talk to me, and tell me you will be there. I will be sitting by the phone waiting.

Always serving: Good food, and Good schmooze.

Charlie Manasse, Chief Cook and Bottle Washer

From the Sisterhood

It has been a pretty cold two days since I returned from a month long visit to Southern California, where I enjoyed the warmth of the beautiful sunshine and, more important, the warmth of my beautiful family. But reality sets in and here I am back in Binghamton.

Having said all that, I am looking forward to getting back to Sisterhood and seeing everyone. Our Paid-up Membership dinner on Wednesday, November 13, will have already occurred by the time you read this and I am sure it was delicious. A big thanks to Meryl Sasnowitz and her crew for making the dinner. Another thanks to Marlene Serkin for the raffles and for all the arrangements in getting them. We can never take for granted all the work involved in putting together an evening like this. December's meeting is the annual Inter-Sisterhood event, which will be hosted by Temple Concord. More information will be forthcoming (see the flyer with this *ChaiLine*) and it promises to be a fun evening. Thanks to Dora Polachek for coordinating this program with her colleagues at Temple Concord.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Chanukah, the first night of which falls on Thanksgiving. This won't happen again until the year 79,811. Light up your menorahs brightly so they shine throughout the world. Have a happy holiday and don't stuff yourself with latkes and turkey!

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:

The Alweis family on Michael's graduation from Yeshiva University
Susan & Brian Savitch on the birth of a grandson
Eileen & Dan Miller on Alex's graduation from Vestal High
Harold & Toby Kohn on the marriage of Dan and Anna
Gina Glasman & Jonathan Karp on Jackie's graduation from Binghamton High

Phyllis & Gerald Heller on Joan's acceptance to Tel Aviv University
Adam & Avigayil Perry on the birth of their daughter, Elisheva Bayla
Ami & SarahLynn Adamit on the birth of a grandson
Gerry Hubal on his 75th birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kessler on the marriage of their son, Avram

Thank You to:

The ICU nurses at Wilson Memorial Hospital

Refuah Shelema to:

Charles Manasse	Aaron Alweis	Michael Wright
David Serkin	Shelly Zachs	Shalom Shoer
Frieda Samuels	Jeff Shapiro	

In Memory Of:

Larry Cadkin	Leah Schwartz	Gloria Pelter
Lillian Greenberg	Father of Linka Kessler	

Beth David Family

Glorious days brought us magnificent views of our Southern Tier fall foliage. The pleasant weather made meals in the succah a delight.

SarahLynn and Rabbi Ami Adamit made it to Jerusalem just in time to attend the *brit* of their grandson, Lavi, born to Batsheva and Gilead Adamit. Elisheva Bayla, daughter of Avigayil and Adam Perry was welcomed into this world just before Rosh Hashanah, and she was welcomed at shul for her first Sukkot. Susan and Michael Wright celebrated the birth of their grandson Eitan Shlomo in Connecticut. He's the son of Natanya and Dmitry Ostrovsky. May all the babies be blessed to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, to *chuppah*, and to 120 in good health!

Kudos to our Beth David Family members for their achievements: Steven Kutz, son of Arline and Marvin Kutz, and nephew of Maria and Bob Kutz, was published in the *Wall Street Journal* with an article "An Ode to the Grandstand." Michael Wright was recognized as a Super Lawyer in the field of Employment and Labor Law by *Upstate New York Super Lawyers Magazine*; Suzanne Triebwasser passed the Maryland Bar exam; Anna Elashvili, wife of Daniel Kohn and daughter-in-law of Toby and Harold Kohn, and her group *The Bryant Park Quartet*, played at Binghamton's Phelps Mansion as part of a chamber music series; Avital Weissman, wife of Eli and daughter of Judy and Rabbi Zev Silber, in a historic occasion, was one of the first five *Yotzot Halacha* (Women Consultants in Jewish Law) educated in the United States and certified by rabbinic authorities in Israel. At the Jewish Federation of Broome County's Annual Meeting, Yasher Koach Awards were presented to several of our members: Eileen Miller was acknowledged for her volunteerism at Hillel Academy, Michael Wright was thanked for his tireless efforts for the Federation and Susan Wright was recognized for her work on behalf of Beth David Synagogue. *Kol Hakavod* to all these folks!

Susan and Gerald Hubal's Cleveland road trip included a visit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Retirement has them exploring treasures around the country. A few days before Marilyn Bell visited Las Vegas, Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy stopped at the hopping city for a combined business and pleasure trip. Barbara and Les Bank toured China prior to heading to Australia to meet up with Arieh Ullmann and Rhonda Levine for the marriage of Arieh's son Jeremy to Katie O'Grady.

Elaine and Jerry Cohen traveled to Israel for the henna ceremony of their daughter Laura. This Moroccan custom is a pre-wedding tradition of Laura's fiancé, Ami Efrati's, family. Many from the Binghamton days attended this vibrant and exciting evening.

Claire and Sam Ladenheim *kvelled* at the Los Angeles Bar Mitzvah of their great-grandson Jacob Gottesman. He's the son of Tammy and Ashie Gottesman and the grandson of Xiana and Michael Shifman. Dora and Steve Feuer *shepped* lots of *nachas* at the Long Island B'not Mitzvah of their granddaughters Yael and Rina, daughters of Amy and Amir Poran. Mazal Tov to the extended families.

Refuah Shelema to Harold Kohn, David Serkin, and Rabbi Zev Silber.

Enjoy the dancing lights of the Chanukah menorah and be warmed by the power they hold.

Meryl Sasnowitz

Contributions

General Fund from:

Charlie Manasse in honor of the wedding of Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann
Barbara & Robert Ruchames in honor of the wedding of Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann
Elaine Green in honor of Susan Wright receiving the Yasher Koach award
Simkovitz & Juliette Landesman in honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Elisheva Bayla, to Adam & Avigayil Perry
Saba & Michael Wiesner in honor of the birth of Meredith Pell-Preus' granddaughter.
Saba & Michael Wiesner in honor of the birth of Michael & Susan Wright's new grandson, Eitan Shlomo Ostrovsky
Saba & Michael Wiesner in honor of the birth of Rabbi Ami & SarahLynn Adamit's new grandson, Lavi Adamit
Saba & Michael Wiesner wishing David Serkin a speedy recovery
Maria & Robert Kutz wishing David Serkin a speedy recovery
Marcia & Stephen Sutter
Laura Greger
Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz
Dick & Lori Lewis
Jonathan Gell
Marcy & Gaby Yonaty

Memorial Fund from:

Ruth Goldstein in memory of the mother of Dr. Alvin Greenberg
Stuart & Molly Serkin in memory of Jack Serkin

Shul Beautiful from:

Marcy & Gaby Yonaty wishing Mazel Tov to Daniel Kohn & Anna Elashvili on their marriage
Claire & Sam Ladenheim wishing Mazel Tov to Daniel Kohn & Anna Elashvili on their marriage

Sisterhood Fund from:

Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann thanking Sisterhood for taking care of our *Auf Ruf* Kiddush

Shabbat Luncheon Fund

Malvinia & Dan Sambursky
Hanna & Shelly Zacks

Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy
Lillian Zodikoff

Happy Chanukah!

Holiday Kiddush Thanks

I'm sure the entire congregation wishes to join me in thanking the many people who volunteered their time to set up and clean up the *kiddushim* during the holidays.

The official volunteers were:

Elisa Alweis	Miriam Alweis	Susan Hubal
Marti Kliensky	Toby Kohn	Dora Polachek
Meryl Sasnowitz	Marlene Serkin	Rita Shawn
Judy Silber	Lillian Sommer	Melanie Tuberman
Samantha Tuberman		Marie Werner

Additional helpers included many of the spouses of the above mentioned and several of our youngest attendees and guests.

None of these *kiddushim* would have been possible without the many phone calls made by Paula Rubin to secure the volunteers, and the monumental effort made by Marlene Serkin who planned the menus, did most of the shopping, and provided constant guidance.

Our thanks also to Sheldon and Ahren Edison for donating the herring, and to Charles and Paula Rubin for donating the kichel.

Cathy Velenchik