

February-March Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
<i>*Except March 12</i>	<i>6:30 am</i>
Shabbat	9:00 am

EVENINGS (times constant through March 7)

Monday – Thursday	7:00 pm
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EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday, February 15	5:20 pm
Shabbat, February 16	5:05 pm
Sunday, February 17	5:25 pm
<i>Thursday–Sunday, February 21-24</i>	<i>see Purim schedule</i>
Friday, March 1	5:35 pm
Shabbat, March 2	5:25 pm
Sunday, March 3	5:40 pm
Friday, March 8	5:45 pm
Shabbat, March 9	5:35 pm
Sunday-Thursday, March 10-14	6:50 pm
Friday, March 15	6:55 pm
Shabbat, March 16	6:40 pm

Sunday-Thursday, March 17-21	6:55 pm
Friday, March 22	7:00 pm
Shabbat, March 23	6:35 pm

Pre-Pesach Workshop
Wednesday, March 13, 2013 – 7:30 pm
at Beth David Synagogue
All are welcome

Save the Date – March 9, 2013

The March 9 luncheon will feature Marc Schimsky speaking on his experiences as an interviewer for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. More information will appear in *The Reporter* at a later date. Please plan to come and bring your friends.

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CHAI LINE

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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME LIV, ISSUE 3

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

February/March-Purim, 2013-5773

From the Rabbi

When we read the megillah on Purim, the congregation reads 4 verses aloud before being repeated by the reader. Three of these verses refer to Mordechai's rise to power, thus saving the Jews from the evil Haman, and one of the verses is the Jew's reaction to being saved. That verse reads *וַיְהִי כִּי הָיָה הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְיְהוּדִים - לְהַחֲדִים הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה אֶרֶץ אֲרָרָה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן וְיִקָּר וְיִהְיֶה לְיְהוּדִים לְחַג הַחֲדָשִׁים* - The Jews had light, happiness, joy and honor.

This year Purim occurs at the conclusion of Shabbat. Following the Megillah we will recite Havdalah. In the introduction to Havdalah we recite several verses, one of which is this very verse from the Megillah, which again is recited first by the congregation and then by the one reciting the Havdalah, with the addition of the phrase *לְךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ* - may we have the same.

Why is this verse, which expresses our joy for deliverance from our enemies, selected to be recited each Saturday night, and why do we add the phrase "may we have the same"?

The Talmud (Shabbat 118b) states, "if only the Jewish people would keep one Shabbat according to the law, they would immediately be redeemed." Upon the conclusion of Shabbat the rabbis ordained that we recite a statement of joy for our deliverance from our enemies, with the added hope that this past Shabbat was that one that will merit the complete redemption and usher in the messianic era of Jews living in Israel in peace and security.

We all pray for the peace and security of Israel, especially in these days when the threats to the stability of the Middle East are surrounding Israel and threatening it with destruction. It behooves us, each and every one of us who cares deeply for Israel and its people, to do the one thing that that will guarantee its safety. Keep this one Shabbat!

On Shabbat, February 23, we read the special portion called "Zachor" - remember. We remember how Amalek attempted to destroy the Jewish people right after they left Egypt and promise "Never Again! That Saturday night we celebrate Purim and the defeat of Haman of Persia in the time of Mordechai. And we will conclude the service with Havdalah when we express the hope for the safety of Israel from the threats of the modern day Haman in Iran (Persia).

If we care about Israel and its safety we will each join with Jews all over the world that Shabbat in observing it properly and participating in all these special prayers. I hope to see you in shul on that Shabbat and on Purim, which immediately follows. The Jews had light and happiness - *may we have the same!*

Chag Purim Sameach!
 Rabbi Zev Silber

Thanks to Our Sponsors

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

Claire and Sam Ladenheim in honor of the engagement of our daughter, **Susan Rendsburg** of Merion, PA, to **Robert Grosberg** of W. Orange, NJ.

Special Sponsor **Phyllis Ansell** in honor of all her friends at Beth David and in honor of the ChaiLine

Your Synagogue Wants You!



Help Beth David have a thriving minyan!
 Your participation is vital!

Shabbat services have been beginning later and later these days while we wait for 10 men to arrive. On one Shabbat, we did not get a minyan until 10:30 a.m.!

Please come to shul, bring a friend and help us renew the ruach and vigor in *your* synagogue.

Shabbat Morning Services begin at 9:00 a.m.

Aaron Alweis
 Ritual Committee Chair

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Special Thanks to Elisa Alweis for the graphic!

Give Double Chai

To all those who so generously come forward with their sponsorship donations, you are indeed the Chai in the ChaiLine.

I would like to thank past, present and future sponsors of the ChaiLine. You make it possible for our bulletin to be self supporting and not a drain on the Shul budget.

We need your ongoing support to continue to offset the rising costs of producing and mailing our shul bulletin.

Be a sponsor to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, any simcha or a yahrtzeit. Be a sponsor to say thank you for good deeds done or Mitzvah cards received. Whatever your reason, be a sponsor

Your donation of \$36.00 (regular sponsor), \$180.00 (Special Sponsor), or \$18.00 (thank you) received in the Shul office before the next deadline (3/6/13) will be much appreciated.

Marlene Serkin, ChaiLine coordinator

Purim Customs and Practices

When: Purim begins on Saturday, February 23, at night, after Shabbat, and lasts through the day of Sunday, February 24. The fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, February 21.

Work is permitted on Purim. However, we usually spend most of the day in fulfillment of the various mitzvot of Purim, as will be enumerated below.

The Four Parshiot: There are special Torah readings of the maftir during four *shabbatot* from the *Shabbat* before Rosh Chodesh Adar until the Shabbat of Rosh Chodesh Nisan. The Shabbat before Purim we read *Parshat Zachor – remember* – and this serves as an affirmation to remember the evil that occurred to the Jewish people in the past and a commitment to never forget, and never again allow genocidal murder to take place. According to most authorities, hearing this portion of the Torah read is one of the 613 *mitzvot*. You are encouraged to be in *shul* on Shabbat morning, February 23, to fulfill this obligation.

Ta’anit Ester – the fast of Esther: We fast on the day before Purim in commemoration of the fasting that the Jews observed on the day of the battle. The name of the fast is associated with Queen Esther, as she had declared three days of a national fast before approaching the king to request the annulment of Haman’s decree. Since the day before Purim is Shabbat, the fast is observed on the Thursday before Purim, February 21. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:41 am and ending at 6:25 pm. If you have special circumstances that may make it difficult to fast, please consult with the rabbi.

Reading the Megillah: It is a mitzvah to hear the *Megillah*, the scroll of Esther, read both at night and during the day of Purim. At Beth David, we will be reading the *Megillah* on Saturday night, February 23, at 6:50 pm and Sunday morning, February 24, at 9:00 am, following *Shacharit*. If you cannot make the morning reading, it will be read again at the *shul* at 2:15 pm, prior to the festive meal.

It is customary to contribute to synagogue maintenance before hearing the *Megillah*, in commemoration of the *machatzit hashekel*, the three half shekels that were given each year in Adar for the maintenance of the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Since Purim starts right after Shabbat, we make this contribution either on the Fast of Esther before *Mincha*, or before we read the *Megillah* on Purim day.

Matanot La’evyonim – Gifts to the poor: It is a mitzvah to give at least two gifts to each of two poor people on this day as Purim charity. The rabbis will be collecting and distributing Purim charity to local Jewish poor through the Jewish Family Service and to the poor in Israel through the Od Yosef Chai organization. Contributions for this purpose should be made to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund and please note how you wish your contribution to be divided, between local or Israel needs. Contributions for local needs must be made by February 19, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning *Megillah* reading.

Mishloach Manot – food gifts to friends: Commonly known as *shalach manos*, we give at least 2 portions of ready-to-eat foods to at least one other person. The mitzvah of sharing Purim joy through food is commendable, but more of our holiday funds should be allocated for gifts to the poor.

Seudat Purim – the Purim feast: It is a mitzvah to participate in a festive meal on Purim day (not at night). Beth David will conduct its annual Purim Seudah on Sunday, February 24, at 3:00 pm. *See announcement in this issue!*

Special prayers: On *Ta’anit Esther* we add special prayers and Torah reading at both the morning and afternoon services, as is customary for fast days. On Purim we add al hanissim in Grace after meals and the Amida. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. There is a special Torah reading in the morning, before the *Megillah* reading. The day after Purim is known as Shushan Purim and is the day that Purim is celebrated in Jerusalem. We do not say *tachanun* in honor of this day.

Sisterhood

Isn’t it a harbinger of spring with Purim right around the corner? Even Puxitawney Phil declared an early spring and we definitely can use it.

Our January meeting was held in the afternoon, at the Endicott library. There was a nice showing and we were taught some more computer skills. Some of us actually made spread sheets and flyers and it was a fun afternoon. Thanks to the program committee for setting it up.

The February 13 meeting at Beth David will feature Ann Supa, of the Cornell Cooperative Extension talking about animal science and nutrition. Her talk is titled “Nutritional Basics for 2013” and we can all benefit from this information. (This is being written prior to the meeting)

Instead of our regular meeting on March 13, Rabbi Silber will hold a Pesach workshop. Join us at 7:30 pm, at Beth David, to get the answers to your Pesach questions. Bring your friends.

Happy Purim to everyone!

Claire Ladenheim
Sisterhood President

Contributions

In memory of SarahLynn Adamit’s mother
Saba & Michael Wiesner
Robert & Barbara Ruchames
Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

In memory of Rita Bleier’s mother
Saba & Michael Wiesner
Robert & Barbara Ruchames

Speedy recovery to Meryl Sasnowitz & Toby Kohn from Saba & Michael Wiesner
In honor of the marriage of Danny & Rivkah Alweis from Robert & Barbara Ruchames

Shul Beautiful to:

Gabe Ferber with absolute gratitude from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty
Mike Wright with thanks for doing the bima chairs from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty
Diane Herz in memory of her dear husband, Harold from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty
Doris Zolty with best wishes on her birthday from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty
Steve Feuer with best wishes on his 70th birthday from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty
Harold & Toby Kohn wishing them Mazel Tov on Daniel’s engagement to Anna Elashvili from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty

Matanot La’evyonim – Purim Charity

One of the mitzvot of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on Purim day. Your rabbis will again distribute gifts to local needy through the Jewish Family Service, and to Israeli poor through the Od Yosef Chai charitable organization.

Believe it or not, there are Jewish needy in our city and when they have received help at holiday time, they have expressed great thanks and satisfaction. Purim, being a holiday dedicated to simcha – joy, requires us to assure that all Jews can rejoice. The poor rejoice when they have the means to sustain their lives, leading to the importance placed on this mitzvah.

In order to participate in this mitzvah, donations may be sent to the shul or given to one of the rabbis by February 19. Donors are asked to mark their checks as “Purim charity” and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. Contributions received after February 19 will be sent to Israel. Those contributions may be made up to the *Megillah* reading on Purim morning.

Beth David Family

Although icy sidewalks and snow-covered windshields were usual in the past, we’ve been spoiled by winters of late. So, this winter’s “normal” sub-freezing temps have us scampering for clothes we haven’t touched in years. Think of it as a good economic lift for the community, and think of those spring flowers awaiting us around the bend. After all, don’t Purim hamantashen bring April flowers? Mazel Tov to Ruth and Bob Groh, who recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. The Grohs send their love to all at Beth David from their New England home. Marilyn Bell spent her special birthday with friends on a New Orleans get-away. A surprise addition was her sister Suzanne’s arrival on the scene. Susan Rendsburg of Philly happily announced her engagement to Robert Grosberg of West Orange, NJ. Mazal Tov to the couple and to Susan’s parents, Claire and Samuel Ladenheim. Avigayl Mandel, daughter of Elaine and Shai Mandel of Jerusalem, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah with her two sets of nearby Jerusalem grandparents at her side. All the best is wished to Avigayl and to Bubbe and Zeide Charney and Pinchas Oppenheim. Mazel Tov to Toby and Harold Kohn on the engagement of their son Daniel to Anna Elashvili.

Yasher Koach to Harold Sasnowitz, who was recently elected President of the Financial Planning Association of the Southern Tier of New York. I’m happy to serve as the First Lady.

Refuah shelemah to a host of members suffering from winter bugs and falls: Toby Kohn, Maria Kutz, Charles Rubin, Paula Rubin, Lillian Zodikoff and Marlene Serkin.

With sadness I note the passing of Anita Cohen, mother of Rita Bleier. May Rita and Larry and the entire family find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.

May the month of Adar bring you joy, and may your Purim be freilach. This year’s Purim seudah will be prepared by Saba Wiesner, Charlie Manasse and the rest of the crew. I hope to see you there!

Meryl Sasnowitz

Purim Schedule

Ta’anit Ester

Thursday, February 21 Fast begins 5:41 am
Shacharit 6:40 am
Mincha 5:15 pm
Fast ends 6:25 pm

Shabbat Zachor

Friday, February 22 Shacharit 6:40 am
Candle Lighting 5:27 pm
Mincha 5:30 pm
Shabbat, February 23 Shacharit 9:00 am
Parshat Zachor 10:30 am
Mincha 5:15 pm

Purim

Saturday, February 23 Shabbat ends 6:28 pm
Ma’ariv 6:40 pm
Megillah 6:50 pm
Sunday, February 24 Shacharit 8:30 am
Megillah 9:00 am
Second reading 2:15 pm
Mincha 3:00 pm
Purim Seudah following Mincha
Ma’ariv 6:00 pm

Thank You

I would like to thank Charles Rubin for his generous gifts.
Dan Gold

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Miriam & Aaron Alweis on Michael’s marriage to Malka
Miriam & Aaron Alweis on Danny’s marriage to Rivkah
Malka Alweis in honor of her graduation
Marilyn Bell on her special birthday
Svetlana & Mark Budman wishing them well on their move to the Boston area
Debra Goldman on earning her Master’s Degree
Marti Kliensky to thank her for all she does for Beth David
Toby and Harold Kohn on Daniel’s engagement to Anna Elashvili
Claire & Sam Ladenheim on Susan’s engagement to Robert Grosberg
Mr. Philip Lazarus to thank him for his kindness and generosity
Steven Lynn to thank him for his Inter-Sisterhood presentation
Chara & Pinchas Oppenheim on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Avigayl
Vadim Ostonovsky to wish him well on his move to the Boston area
Leonard Preston to thank him for his Shabbat luncheon presentation
Susan Rendsburg on her engagement to Robert Grosberg
Meryl Sasnowitz to thank her for all she does for Beth David
Suzy Savitch to thank her for her Shabbat luncheon presentation
Marlene Serkin to thank her for all she does for Beth David
Judy Silber to thank her for all she does for Beth David
Steve Sutter, Thank you
Cathy Velenchik/Chaim Joy, Thank you
Lilly & Herman Wolf on Michael’s marriage to Malka
Lilly & Herman Wolf on Danny’s marriage to Rivkah
Michael Wright to thank him for his Shabbat luncheon presentation
Michael Wright a sincere thank you
Lillian Zodikoff to thank her for all that she does for Beth David

Refuah Shelemah:

Toby Kohn
Meryl Sasnowitz
Maria Kutz
Marlene Serkin
Paula Rubin
Lillian Zodikoff

Condolences to:

Sarah Lynn Adamit in memory of her mother, Olga White
Michael & Maddy Azersky in memory of Michael’s mother, Sylvia
Rita Bleier in memory of her mother, Anita Cohen
Miriam Eisenberg in memory of her mother
Matthew Epstein in memory of his wife, Judy
Mel Franklin in memory of mother, Bertha
Diane Herz in memory of her husband, Harold
M. Hoffman in memory of Bertha
Joan Jacobson in memory of her father, Bernard Smigel
Harold Sasnowitz in memory of his aunt

INVITATION

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