

39 Riverside Dr
Binghamton, NY 13905

E-mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Web Site: BethDavid.org
607-722-1793

Gina Santiago, Coordinator
Eleatic-stranger@hotmail.com

CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

VOLUME LXVI, ISSUE 3
Purim 5784/ March 2024

FROM THE RABBI

In 1948, Winston Churchill said to the British House of Commons **“Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”** He wasn't the first to say, as the Spanish writer and philosopher is credit with saying “Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it,” in the late 1800's. In reality the Torah says virtually the same at the end of Devarim where Moshe exhorts the Israelites “remember the days of the past, understand the years of all generation”. I believe that these thoughts are a prime consideration of how we make decisions for appropriate action.

We know that the evil Adolf Hitler wrote and said that his goal was to exterminate the Jewish people. Many other people thought that this need not be taken seriously. And yet, he attempted to fulfill this goal and succeeded in killing 6 million of our people. When someone makes such verbal and written threats, believe that he will try.

Many centuries before that time, we began to celebrate the holiday of Purim which marks the defeat of the wicked Haman who crafted the infamous royal edict which announced that all the Jews in the Persian (Iranian) empire, men, women and children will be annihilated. Esther, after pleading with the king, sent a second royal edict allowing the Jews to defend themselves and destroy their enemies. The result was the hanging of Haman, and the killing of 800 of his fighters and supporters over 2 days just in the capitol city, Shushan. Additionally, 75,000 of his fighters and supporters throughout the empire were killed.

So many people, including women and children were killed in just one of fighting, the rest of the population were so devastated that they rejected Haman's edict and stopped fighting. Imagine what would have happened if they had not surrendered and continued fighting! Only the total defeat of those threatening the Jewish people will bring peace to us and to our neighbors.

Today, the threats of Hamas are clearly visible and they continue despite the continued suffering of innocent civilians. The Hamas charter states: *The hour of judgment shall not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, so that the Jews hide behind trees and stones, and each tree and stone will say: 'Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him,' except for the Gharqad tree, for it is the tree of the Jews.* (Hamas Charter, Article 7). The warning is clear!

The responsibility and desire of all the civilian deaths belong to Hamas. Hamas senior leader Ismail Haniyeh, [commenting](#) on the loss of civilian life in Gaza on October 26, 2023: **“The blood of the women, children and elderly [...] we are the ones who need this blood, so it awakens within us the revolutionary spirit.”**

Those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. I believe in this. What I learn from the past is that the fight to destroy anti-Semitism will be achieved when there is total victory of those who seek to annihilate us. We must continue this battle until we are victorious.

May the hostages be released immediately, may the war end in victory and perhaps we will add another holiday to the Jewish calendar in recognition of God's role in this victory.

Chag Purim Sameach!
Rabbi Zev Silber

From The President

Dear Congregants,

I need to share with you the great loss to our synagogue this last month.

Marlene Serkin, of blessed memory, a powerful woman who worked diligently to make Beth David the beloved shul in our community.

Marlene was a confident leader and she made us all feel confident that if you picked the right people, you would get the job done. She always got the job done! Her memory of events was incredible even as she got older, I always knew I would get the correct answers and dates if I asked her. I miss her every time I enter the shul. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Our hearts go out to Eitan and Varda Morell on the loss of their son, Staff Sergeant Maoz Morell, of blessed memory, who was killed in Gaza. Maoz's grandparents, Shmuel and Audrey Morell, of blessed memory, were members of our shul for many years. How tragic for all of us that this young man will never live out his dreams. We pray that peace will again come to our beloved Israel.

In April, we will begin work on the outside of the building. The concrete block structure is needing repairs to prevent water from entering the building. We will also begin working on the outside gate where the concrete stairs go to the upper level. This gate will be a deterrent and protection from someone entering the sanctuary from the upper level. I will share more information on this in the future.

Hopefully we will soon have our members back from their Southern homes and we can look forward to a minyan on Shabbos morning. It has been very quiet and worrisome.

We all need to keep in mind how important Beth David is to us all, to keep it vibrant we must all do our part.

Purim is coming soon and I will be making Purim Dinner on Sunday, March 24 at approximately 4 o'clock, after the reading of the Megillah at 3. Please make reservations early so that I can plan accordingly.

Have a very Happy Purim!

Saba Wiesner

Matanot La'evyonim – Purim Charity

One of the *mitzvot* of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on Purim day. Rabbi Silber 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 the rabbi by **Monday, March 18**. 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 March 18 will be sent to Israel. The deadline for contributions to be distributed in Israel is Purim morning, March 24 at 9:00 am.

Please do not hesitate to text or email Rabbi Silber with a pledge for this purpose if you cannot get to the check to the shul office before these deadlines, and he will advance the funds on your behalf.

SISTERHOOD

The last issue of the Chailine came out just before Sisterhood and Men's club co-sponsored a highly successful **Chanukah party** which featured food prepared by Stacey Silber and Charlie Manasse, entertainment by Jonny Pachter, and was underwritten by the Eisenberg Fund.

In February **Jonathan Grier** spoke to us about cybersecurity. He stressed that it is very easy to clone official websites, so we should be wary of anything that looks official, but pressures us to make a quick decision, change our password, or wants us to send money. As a bonus, attendees at the zoom session had an opportunity to speak with Jonathan's mother, Toby Grier.

By the time you read this, we should have had a **March field trip to the Binghamton University Art Museum** where we had a special guided tour of artwork of Jewish interest.

Also, Lori Tuberman and several volunteers will have baked a multitude of **hamantaschen** which will be enjoyed on Purim. Thank you everyone who participated.

Coming soon on **April 3 will be Rabbi Zev Silber's annual Pre-Passover workshop** during which he will update us on recent changes to kosher for Passover items and will answer questions we may have concerning preparations for the holiday. Watch for another beautiful flyer designed by Rabbi David Serkin.

Please remember Sisterhood raises funds through **mitzva cards** which are appropriate for any occasion and are sent by Toby Kohn for a donation of 3 dollars each. We also raise funds through the sale of new and used items which are donated by Sisterhood members to Stacey Silber.

Our **Bikur Cholim** committee is ready to reach out to members who are known to be ill or in need of assistance, and our **membership committee** will contact new Jewish families in the area who might consider attending Beth David.

We are still in need of a location for our May 8 donor meeting which is typically held in someone's home. Please consider volunteering.

We are also looking for program ideas for the May and June meetings. Please contact me if you have a suggestion.

I wish you all **Ah Freilichen Purim**. See you in shul.

Cathy Velenchik, President Beth David Sisterhood

Sisterhood Fundraisers

For years Sisterhood has been raising funds through the sale of **mitzvah cards which are \$3 each**. They are custom written by Toby Kohn to express sentiments appropriate to the occasion. The most efficient way to order them is to contact Toby directly, but you may also make a request through the synagogue office. Toby's number: 607-754-4297, email: tova.kohn844@gmail.com

A relatively new fundraising project is coordinated by Stacey Silber whose business Silber Creations, sells a variety of handcrafted and donated items at the multi-vendor market Your Needful Things, located at 136 East Service Road Binghamton.

Stacey has agreed to donate to Sisterhood the profits from anything she sells which has been donated to her by Sisterhood members with the intention that Sisterhood will benefit if they are sold. So far, she has raised nearly \$100.

To donate items please contact Stacey at (607) 727-9738 or email her at silbercreations@gmail.com. You can shop in person at Your Needful Things, or by visiting her website at www.silbercreations.com.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: AT THE PRESENT TIME, BETH DAVID ONLY HAS MINYAN ON SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY MORNINGS, AND ON SPECIAL DAYS, AS NOTED BELOW. FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE MINYANIM AT NIGHT, AS WELL. A MINYAN AT OTHER TIMES MAY POSSIBLY BE ARRANGED, UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT THE RABBI.

Friday, March 15	<i>candle lighting</i>	6:52 pm	Shabbat, April 6	Shacharit	9:30 am
Shabbat, March 16	Shacharit	9:30 am		<i>Shabbat ends</i>	8:19 pm
	<i>Shabbat ends</i>	7:54 pm	Friday, April 12	<i>candle lighting</i>	7:24 pm
March 21-24	SEE PURIM SCHEDULE		Shabbat, April 13	Shacharit	9:30 am
Friday, March 29	<i>candle lighting</i>	7:08 pm		<i>Shabbat ends</i>	8:27 pm
Shabbat, March 30	Shacharit	9:30 am	Friday, April 19	<i>candle lighting</i>	7:32 pm
	<i>Shabbat ends</i>	8:10 pm	Shabbat, April 20	Shacharit	9:30 am
Friday, April 5	<i>candle lighting</i>	7:16 pm		<i>Shabbat ends</i>	8:36 pm

Beth David Sisterhood Remembers Marlene Serkin

Beth David Sisterhood suffered a great loss with the passing of our dear friend and member Marlene Serkin a few weeks ago.

When I first met Marlene, she was President of Sisterhood. She later served as our Treasurer, and finally as Co-president. She ran the rummage sales which were our primary source of income, and solicited merchants to donate items for the paid up-membership meeting raffle.

For Yom Kippur she supplied and set up yearzeit candles and tea lights for Kol Nidre, and organized and set up the Yom Kippur break-fast. She also prepared the menu and did all the shopping for the kiddushes during Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah.

For the weekly Shabbos kiddushes she supplied basic food items, paper goods, and kitchen incidentals and additionally collected the empty soda bottles to be returned for the deposit.

For many years she sent out notices and flyers (which in recent years were designed by her son Rabbi David Serkin). She was an invaluable source of information about anything Sisterhood.

I have not mentioned any of the things she did for Sisterhood before I came to Binghamton, since I have no direct knowledge of them, and I have probably forgotten several of the things she did for Sisterhood since then. She never expected special recognition for all her efforts.

Although it is not a Sisterhood project, I feel compelled to also mention the many years she was the editor of this Chailine.

We at Sisterhood will miss Marlene very much.

Purim Customs and Practices

When: Purim begins on Saturday, March 23 at night, after Shabbat, and lasts through the day of Sunday, March 24. The fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, March 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 as the *maftir* during four *shabbatot* from the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Adar until the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Nisan. The *Shabbat* before Purim we read **Parshat Zachor – remember** – and this serves of 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, March 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, March 21**. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:41 am and ending at 8:00 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, March 23 at 8:40 pm and Sunday morning, March 24 at 8:50 am, following Shacharit. If you cannot make the morning reading, it will be read again at the shul at 3:00 pm, prior to the festive meal.

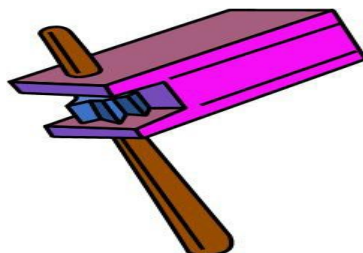
It is customary to contribute to synagogue maintenance before hearing the *Megillah*, in commemoration of the *machtzit hashekel*, the three half shekels that were given each year in Adar for the maintenance of the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Since Purim starts right after Shabbat, we make this contribution 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. Rabbi Silber 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 **Monday, March 18**, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning Megillah reading. *If you cannot get your checks to the office by these dates, please contact Rabbi Silber by email or text message with your pledge and he will advance the money for you.*

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, March 24 at 4:00 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 day.



Contributions

The shul gives thanks to all who made contributions to Rabbi Silber's gift

General Donation

Susan & Benjamin Ansell
Susan Feuerstein
Lori & Richard Lewis
Nathaniel Polachek
Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber
Betty & Dr. Howard Warner

In honor of Rabbi Silber

Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy
Harold & Toby Kohn
Marlene Serkin, A"H
Lori & Brian Tuberman

Wishing Rabbi Silber a Refuah Shelema

Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann

In honor of the birth of Yechezkel Yonaty

Nancy & Robert Basmann
Marilyn Bell
Robert Kutz
Irving and Myra Memis

In memory of Edward Alweis, A"H

Julie & Alan Piaker
Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann

In memory of Ruth and Howard Buschman, A"H

Drs. Dora and Sol Polachek
In memory of Marlene Serkin, A"H
Nancy & Robert Basmann
Marilyn Bell
Robert Kutz
Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann
Julie & Alan Piaker
Saba & Michael Wiesner

In memory of Maoz Morrell, A"H

Shelly Goldman Black

Kiddush Luncheon

Rosalyn Anton
Drs. Sol and Dora Polachek
Sarah Klionsky
Wendy & Michael Wolff
Ilya Stein

Mikvah Fund

Rabbi Rachel Esserman, Jewish Federation

Purim Schedule

Ta'anit Ester

Thursday, March 21	<i>Fast begins</i>	5:41 am
	<i>Fast ends</i>	8:00 pm

Shabbat Zachor

Friday, March 22	Candle Lighting	7:00 pm
Shabbat, March 23	Shacharit	9:30 am
	Parshat Zachor	10:20 am

Purim

Saturday, March 23	Shabbat ends	8:02 pm
	Ma'ariv	8:30 pm
	Megillah	8:40 pm
Sunday, March 24	Shacharit	8:30 am
	Megillah	8:50 am
	Second reading	3:00 pm
	Mincha	3:45 pm
	Purim Seudah	<i>following Mincha at 4:00 pm</i>
	Ma'ariv	7:25 pm

Beth David Family

So much has happened within our Kehilla since the last Chailine issue. Our brethren in Eretz Yisroel are still fighting for the safety of Our Land, hoping to bring the hostages home. One of the fallen chayalim has strong connections to Beth David and the Binghamton Community. Maoz Morell A”H, a fallen hero in Gaza, is the son of Eitan and Varda Morell of Talmon. Most of us remember the Morell family’s ongoing support and contributions to our town. Audrey A”H and Shmuel A”H gave of themselves wholeheartedly. Our condolences go out to Eitan and Varda, grandmother Marion Morell, and aunts and uncles Beth and Avi Morell and Sima and Rusell Kelner.

We also mourn the loss of Marlene Serkin A”H. She was *Mrs. Beth David* in many ways. She kept archives, held the keys to everything, shopped sales for our cupboards, and knew the minutia of every object in the shul. She filled community needs before they even occurred. May her family David, Paul and Susan, and Stuart and Malka know no more sorrow. A WhatsApp group was created by Rose Strauss in Marlene’s memory. In just a short while, folks from many generations and places around the world with Binghamton/Vestal/Endicott roots have connected. Here’s the link to join. **PLEASE don’t add names unless the person him/herself agrees.** <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Efwex1sfp0C7BoWYA2SKJ>

With sadness I also note the passing of Edward Alweis, Yehuda Yosef, the father of Aaron Alweis. Miriam and Aaron Alweis spent several weeks in the Boa Raton area lending support to his parents. While Aaron sat shiva in south Florida, Sheldon Edison, who winters in Deerfield Beach, kindly attended Aaron’s shiva minyon to lend some hometown support. May Miriam and Aaron, Kenny and Karen, and Adam find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalem.

I had the zechus to attend the 60th birthday celebration of Rivky Slonim in Queens. It was heartwarming to see how many former students turned out for this milestone. Hearing tributes read from alumnae of several generations showed the scope of how far beyond the Binghamton community Rivky’s treasured status reaches.

Mazel Tov to Inessa and Mark Yonaty on the birth of a son, Ezekiel Gavriel. Hometown parents welcoming the next generation to Binghamton is a special occasion. Grandparents Marcy and Gavi Yonaty are still kvelling over their newest grandchild.

Rivka and Dan Alweis of Remot Bet welcomed a boy, Yehuda Yosef, into their family. The baby, whose brit was just a few days after his great-grandfather’s passing, was named in the zechus of that great-grandfather, Aaron Alweis’ father. Mazal Tov to grandparents Miriam and Aaron Alweis.

Harold and I had the mazal of welcoming a baby into our family. Our great-granddaughter Leeba was born to Menucha and Yisroel Landau of Baltimore. Mazal Tov to the Landaus and to Leeba’s grandparents Michael and Leslie Sasnowitz Tuchman and Tzippy and Gerald Landau of Toronto. May each of the babies grow to Bat/Bar Mitzvah, chuppah, and to 120 in good health and good deeds!

Akiva Strulowitz celebrated his becoming a Bar Mitzvah among family and friends in his Passaic shul. He’s the son of Bethany and Josh Strulowitz, and the grandson of Rita and Larry Bleier. Harold and I had the merit of attending the local simcha along with our grandson Zecharya Sommer who’s a classmate of Akiva.

Jacob Katz was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at his Boca Raton shul. He’s the son of Naomi and Eli Katz and the grandson of Roz and Harry Wiesel. Jacob was surrounded by family from around the world.

Dick Lewis, President of the NYS Bar Association, was recognized for his work in bringing together the NYS Bar Association, the Israel Bar Association, and the legal tech company Paladin to create www.israelbar.legal, a platform to offer free legal assistance from Israeli lawyers to those affected by the October 7th attacks.

Purim evokes thoughts of strength, of courage, and of commitment to who we are. Transfer those ideals to our Israeli soldiers, hostages, and wounded. Please pray for them and consider doing a mitzvah of any sort on their behalf. Remember to let me know of your family’s happenings. msasnowitz@gmail.com or 607-760-5407

Meryl Sasnowitz

GIVE DOUBLE CHAI TO THE CHAILINE

You can be a sponsor for a minimum donation of \$36.00 Write ChaiLine on the memo line and include your message. Some reasons to sponsor include graduations, births, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, anniversaries, a new job, commemorating a yearzeit, or just to be a sponsor. A thank you message can be printed for a donation of \$18.00. Our \$180.00 Special Sponsors get special recognition for their generous contribution.

Chag Purim Sameach!
Gina Santiago
Chai Line Coordinator



Mitzvah Fund

Tova Kohn, 754-4297 or tova.kohn844@gmail.com

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Rabbi Zev Silber upon completing treatment, and being cancer-free

Miriam & Aaron Alweis on the birth of their new grandson

Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz on the birth of their new great granddaughter

Leslie & Michael Tuchman on the birth of their granddaughter

Elaine & Jerry Cohen on the birth of their new grandson

Condolences to:

Aaron Alweis & Family on the loss of his father, Edward Alweis

David Serkin & Family on the loss of his mother, Marlene Serkin



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Chag Purim Sameach!
Gina Santiago
Chai Line Coordinator

תודו

Beth David Sisterhood

HOSTS

In-Person at Beth David

a

PRE-PESACH

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

WITH

Rabbi Zev Silber

WEDNESDAY

April 3, 2024

7:00 pm

BRIEF REVIEW OF

Preparing the Kitchen & Passover Products
Making it a Meaningful & Positive Experience
Share Passover recipes and holiday tips

ASK THE RABBI

Questions may be submitted in advance by email to
RABBISILBER@STNY.RR.COM

NEW PASSOVER INSIGHTS

We will collect food for CHOW.
Clean your pantry and bring your chametzdik donation.

OU
Passover
Directory
will be
available
thru
the Office

First Seder
MONDAY EVENING
April 22nd



TOGETHER WE WILL PREVAIL
בְּיַחַד נִנְצָח

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Purim

Beth David Synagogue
קהל בית דוד

The 4 Mitzvot of Purim 2024 (3/24/24)

1. **Kriyat HaMegillah - Reading the Megillah**
(Sat evening, 3/23 - 8:30pm & Sun morning, 3/24 - 8:50 am)
2. **Matanot LaEvyonim - Special Gifts to the Poor**
Local charity is distributed by Jewish Family Service
Rabbi Silber will distribute Israel charity on Sun, March 24
3. **Mishloach Manot - Sharing Gifts with Friends**
4. **Seudat Purim - Festive Meal - 4:00pm**

Thursday, March 21 - Taanit Esther - Fast of Esther - תענית אסתר

Fast Begins 5:41 am
Shacharit | Minchah AT HOME
 Fast Ends 8:00 pm

Shabbat, March 23 - Parashat Zachor ----- פרשת ויקרא/שבת זכור

Services 9:30 am *Shabbat Ends* 8:02 pm
 Reading of *Parashat Zachor*

Purim ----- פורים

Maariv - Evening Service at Synagogue 8:30 pm
Megillah Reading 8:40 pm

Sunday, March 24 - Purim ----- פורים

Shacharit - Morning Service at Synagogue 8:30 am
Megillah Reading 8:50 am
Megillah Reading 3:00 pm
Minchah - Afternoon Service 3:45 pm
Purim Seudah - At *Shule* 4:00 pm

Monday, March 25 - Shushan Purim ----- שושן פורים

