

December-March Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)*	
Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
*Except December 25; January 1; February 15	8:30 am
*Except January 11; February 9-10; March 10-11	6:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am
EVENINGS (times constant)	
Monday – Thursday	7:00 pm
*Except December 22	4:05 pm
Shabbat Mincha – after Kiddush; Ma'ariv listed below	
EVENINGS (times vary)	
Friday, December 4, 11, 18	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 5, 12	5:35 pm
Sunday, December 6, 13	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 19, 26	5:40 pm
Sunday, December 20	4:20 pm
Tuesday, December 22	4:05 pm
Friday, December 25	4:20 pm
Sunday, December 27	4:25 pm
Friday, January 1	4:25 pm
Shabbat, January 2	5:45 pm
Sunday, January 3	4:30 pm
Friday, January 8	4:30 pm
Shabbat, January 9	5:55 pm
Sunday, January 10	4:35 pm
Friday, January 15	4:40 pm
Shabbat, January 16	6:00 pm
Sunday, January 17	4:45 pm
Friday, January 22	4:50 pm
Shabbat, January 23	6:10 pm

Sunday, January 24	4:55 pm
Friday, January 29	4:55 pm
Shabbat, January 30	6:20 pm
Sunday, January 31	5:00 pm
Friday, February 5	5:05 pm
Shabbat, February 6	6:30 pm
Sunday, February 7	5:10 pm
Friday, February 12	5:15 pm
Shabbat, February 13	6:30 pm
Sunday, February 14	5:25 pm
Friday, February 19	5:25 pm
Shabbat, February 20	6:45 pm
Sunday, February 21	5:30 pm
Friday, February 26	5:35 pm
Shabbat, February 27	6:55 pm
Sunday, February 28	5:35 pm
Friday, March 4	5:40 pm
Shabbat, March 5	7:05 pm
Sunday, March 6	5:45 pm
Friday, March 11	5:50 pm
Shabbat, March 12	7:10 pm
Sunday, March 13	6:55 pm



Fantastic Breakfast Buffet
10:30 am
Sunday, December 20

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"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Chanukah, 2015-5776

From the Rabbi

There are two major contradictory themes in lighting candles on Chanukah. One is known as *pirsumei nisa* – publicizing the miracle that happened, which is the reason why we light the candles at night, place the chanukiah in the window facing the street, and light the candles at public gatherings such as in shul when there is a minyan and community events. This theme implies that the main purpose is accomplished by the public display.

On the other hand, the mitzvah is defined as being fulfilled by *ner ishubeito*—a candle lit in the home. Even if one lights in shul, he is still required to light at home. This implies that the main purpose is accomplished by lighting at home.

I wish to suggest that this contradiction can be resolved by examining the purpose of lighting candles on Chanukah. We are commanded to celebrate the miracle by letting the entire world know about the greatness and graciousness of God who restored the ability of the Jewish people to observe their religion, study Torah and fulfill the mitzvot in an independent sovereign national state. Freedom of religion and freedom from oppression are important principles that civil society needs to adopt in order to succeed and live in peace with one another.

The state of Israel today is a daily celebration of Chanukah, as it shines a beacon of light across the Middle East and throughout the world by steadfastly holding to these principles, even as nations and groups which surround it do everything in their power to defy and deny these basic principles and rights.

We light the Chanukah candles publicly in order to publicize the miracles that happened long ago, and also to say to the world that the Jewish people have the right to its independent state in Israel, and that state stands for freedom and civil values.

However, we cannot accomplish that goal without lighting the candles in our own home. This message must first be understood and integrated into our own family and have ourselves committed to these concepts and to the values that Torah and mitzvah observance gives us.

Only then can we hope to succeed in our mission of being an or *lagoyim* – a light unto the other nations and catalysts to spread these concepts to the rest of humanity.

If we wish to succeed in informing the world about the justice and need for a strong state of Israel, we must commit ourselves and our family first. We light the candles in the home, we strengthen our own commitment, and then we will have the moral strength to teach these values to the world.

May we succeed in infusing our homes with the light of Torah study and mitzvah observance, while continuing to work towards a world filled with compassion for all people, freedom from oppression and threats, which will lead to peace for all.

I wish you a Chanukah Sameach!

Rabbi Zev Silber

From the President

This is a wakeup call to the members of Beth David Synagogue. What if we no longer have a minyan on Shabbat morning? How do you sustain an orthodox shul when its congregation feels no responsibility to make it a viable functioning facility? Is it only the responsibility of a handful of people who come every week so that we have a service on Shabbat? How important is it to all members to have a shul to belong to? Beth David fills up on the High Holidays so we know that we all could do better during the rest of the year.

Take a moment and assess the importance of your shul in your life and your family's life, and do something about it. I am certain that you will feel good if you make it your responsibility to uphold and treasure what we all believe is a precious part of our lives, Beth David belongs to all of us.

There have been some physical improvements to the building, a new ceiling on the left side where the women sit, all the overhangs on the outside have been plastered and look great. We will be starting the mikvah renovations in the spring and the results will be beautiful. Thank you Lori Tuberman for all your work on this project.

Our Shabbat Luncheons and speakers have been excellent, (thank you Dora Polachek). Please remember to generously contribute to this wonderful monthly event so that we can continue to bring interesting speakers and have delicious food (thank you Judy Silber).

Happy Chanukah to all and please remember how important it is to contribute, we need all of you to participate.

Saba Wiesner

Give Double Chai

Getting the *ChaiLine* to you six times a year requires extra effort by a few people. We gladly exert this extra effort so that you, our fellow congregants and friends, can keep up with what is going on at Beth David Synagogue and what members of the Beth David family are up to. Remember, once you have been a member of Beth David, you are always considered a member of the Beth David family.

To those who have helped get the *ChaiLine* to you by sponsoring an issue, both past and present, thank you. If you would like to join their ranks, a donation of \$36.00 for sponsorship, \$180.00 for being a Special Sponsor, or \$18.00 for a thank you, arriving at the Shul office before the next deadline (3/6/16) will be most appreciated.

Happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin

Thanks to the Sponsors of this issue:

Cathy Velenchik and **Chaim Joy** in memory of Chaim's parents **Robert and Nancy Joy**

Marcy & Gavriel Yonaty in memory of **Rita Rozen**

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Paula Rubin on receiving a Yasher Koach Award
 Rita Bleier on receiving a Yasher Koach Award
 Merri Pell Preus on receiving a Yasher Koach Award
 Susan Kasper on receiving a Yasher Koach Award
 Ruth & Howard Buschman on the birth of their first great grandson
 Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim on the birth of a grandson
 Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Mordechai
 Tom & Suzanne Triebwasser on the birth of their son

In Memory Of:

Rose Haber

High Holiday Kiddush Thanks

With Chanukah just around the corner, it is hard to remember back to the High Holidays, but this is my first opportunity to publicly thank all those who helped make our holiday kiddushim so enjoyable. The Congregation, Sisterhood and I want to thank all those who shopped, donated food, prepared, set up and cleaned up after any Kiddush.

As always, our biggest thanks go to **Marlene Serkin** for doing most of the shopping and menu planning.

Our appreciation also goes to **Sheldon Edison** and **Ahren Edison** who donated the herring in memory of their wife and mother respectively, and **Dr. Charles** and **Paula Rubin** who donated the kichel in memory of their beloved son Stephen.

Particular thanks go to the following volunteers:

Elisa Alweis	Dora Polachek	Lillian Sommer
Rhonda Levine	Judy Simon	Marcy Yonaty
Judy Silber	Susan Wright	Toby Kohn
Saba Wiesner	Susan Hubal	Meryl Sasnowitz
Ruth Goldstein	Valerie Preston	Samantha Tuberman

My apologies go to anyone whose name may have been left off the list. Many thanks also to those not officially scheduled to help who pitched in whenever needed, including spouses, and children.

Cathy Velenchik, Sisterhood Service VP

From the Sisterhood

Our November meeting was very interesting. Justin Hayet, a BU graduate student, spoke about Jewish life on campus. He has spoken nationally and has won a national award for his campus activism on antisemitism at schools all over the country. The meeting was very well attended. We enjoyed having many guests from the community. There will be no December meeting. InterSisterhood, which previously was held in December, will now be taking place in April.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, at 1 pm, at the Endicott library, and is a computer workshop. Many thanks to Judy Simon for all her work in arranging these programs.

Please patronize those establishments that contributed raffle prizes for the Sisterhood Paid-Up meeting:

Leroy Package Store	Riverside Optical	Price Chopper
Price Rite	Resciniti Cleaners	Wegmans
Elizabeth's	WalMart	Bed Bath & Beyond
Weis Market	Olum's	Jeanine Nirchi (Avon)

Thank you to our contributors and a special thank you to Saba Wiesner for the delicious dinner she and her helpers prepared.

Happy Chanukah to everyone and may the lights of your menorahs be beacons of shining lights unto all the nations.

Claire Ladenheim
 Sisterhood President

Contributions

General Fund from:

Yosef & Dina Cotton in honor of Moshe Cotton, our first grandson to become a Bar Mitzvah

Rhonda Levine & Arieh Ullmann in appreciation of Dora Polachek's efforts in finding good speakers for the Kiddush luncheons

R. Rachel Esserman thanking everyone for their donations and prayers for her recovery

Saba Wiesner wishing Leonard Preston a speedy recovery

Charney & Robert Oppenheim in memory of Rose Haber

Shul Beautiful to:

Marcy Yonaty in memory of her brother, Marvin Slutzker, from Ilene Goldman

Marcy Yonaty in memory of her brother, Marvin Slutzker, from Steve & Dora Feuer & Family

Marcy Yonaty in memory of her brother, Marvin Slutzker, from Neisen & Marsha Luks

Merri Pell Preus on her receiving the Yasher Koach Award

Beth David Family

Late summer found many folks catching what they thought were the last sunny rays of the season. Barbara and Bob Ruchames refreshed at their MA country home where they rested and readied for winter. Susan and Michael Wright and Kerry Wright enjoyed Southern hospitality when they attended a family wedding in Savannah. Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy's journey to the wedding of a friend in London got them back in the nick of time for Rosh Hashanah. Marlene Serkin and David Serkin shared a family Shabbat at the CT home of Molly and Stuart Serkin when Paul Serkin arrived from Israel. Barbara and Les Bank celebrated their 40th anniversary with a two-week European River Cruise. Aniko and Andy Sarkany celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary by visiting Spain, Morocco and Portugal. Arieh Ullmann and Rhonda Levine flew to Chicago to meet their new grandson, Oscar, son of Kylie and Jeremy Ullmann, who traveled from their home in Australia for a conference. SarahLynn Adamit greeted her newest granddaughter Shira, daughter of Tal and Yossi Bemanesh, on a recent trip to Israel.

Yom Tov brought many of our shul's progeny back to our *kehilla*. It was great to see: Jack Siskin's grandson at his side; Marissa and Jeremy Wright and their son Ben; Dmitry and Natania Wright Ostrovsky and their boys; Rivka and Danny Alweis with their son Yonatan; Malka and Michael Alweis and their daughter Mia Bella; Ruth and Howard Buschman's grandson here from Israel; Donna Greenberg of Albany with her parents Renee and Alvin Greenberg; and, the extended Yonaty mishpacha gathered together.

We all kvelled at the double Bar Mitzvah of Leonard Preston and his grandson Matthew Kopl. Valerie Preston convinced Leonard it wasn't too late to catch that *Bar Mitzvah train* that passed him by in Russia. *Kol hakavod* to Leonard and to Matthew, whose long months of preparation shone through. Mazal Tov to Leonard and Valerie Preston and to Anna and Todd Kopl. Arieh Ullmann marked the 57th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah by reading the haftarah and leading musaf. Rhonda Levine Ullmann commemorated the milestone with a delightful Kiddush. May all the Bar Mitzvah boys continue their quest to learn Torah in good health.

Susan and Gerry Hubal and Saba and Michael Wiesner traveled to PA to attend the Bar Mitzvah of the daughter of Michelle and Lee Schachter. Grandparents Ellen and Jerry Schachter's hearts burst with pride at the simcha. Naomi Staiman left her home in Israel to attend the Bar Mitzvah of her great grandson Shimmie Hahn in Clifton, NJ. He's the son of Adina and Moshe Hahn and the grandson of Cathy and Steve Schuss. The entire Staiman family was there to mark the first Bar Mitzvah of this next generation. Sima Morell Kelner, Abigail Sasnowitz Lazarus, and Rochie Sasnowitz Sommer and their families were on hand to enjoy the simcha and to share Binghamton memories. How touching it was that Abigail and Tzali Lazarus housed Tziviah and Maish Staiman and their son Eli for the Bar

Mitzvah Shabbat. Some of us recall attending Maish's Bar Mitzvah at BD just a short few years ago.

Kol Hakavod to our members who received Yasher Koach awards at the Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting: Paula Rubin from Beth David, Susan Kasper from Hadassah, Rita Bleier from Jewish Family Service and Merri Pell-Preus from *The Reporter*. We're thankful to each of you for enriching our community.

A very hearty Yasher Koach goes to our Beth Davidians who were honored at the 45th Annual Hillel Academy Gala. Rabbi Ami Adamit and Rabbi Zev Silber, our rabbis, were recognized for their outstanding contributions to our community with the *N. Theodore Sommer Community Service Award*, and Eli Groner, Director General, Israeli Prime Minister's Office, was presented with the *Distinguished Alumni Award* for his many contributions to *khal Yisroel*. May SarahLynn and Ami Adamit, Judy and Zev Silber, Tamar and Eli Groner, and their extended family's know how much we appreciate their efforts on behalf of all of us. For those of us new to the Beth David Family, I'll note that Eli is the son of Debbie and Raphael Groner, now of Jerusalem, formerly our Beth David first couple.

Janet and Ken Wilson are proud to be a true part of *eretz Yisroel*. They are now officially registered in the Jerusalem land registry as owners of their apartment. Andy Sarkany of New Haven has been busy preparing for sprint triathlons. He's completed three of these events and is looking forward to more.

Refuah shelema to David Eisenberg, Norman Rudin, Marion Rudin, Marilyn Bell, David Bell, Jeanette DeLeon, and Leon Feldhamer.

Mazal tov to Rabbi Akiva and Nataly Weiss on the birth of their son, Eytan Moshe

We mourn the passing of long time shul members Rose Haber and Marvin Slutzker. May the Haber family, Dina Cotton and Bob Berg, and the Slutzker family, sister Marcy Yonaty and brother Mitchell Slutzker, and all the extended family members know of no more sorrow.

In these times of global turmoil may we pray that the light of the Chanukah menorah awakens the world's people to the necessity of peace for Israel and for the world.

Meryl Sasnowitz

A Note To Beth David

Dear Beth David Family,
 We would like to thank all those who contributed to the shul in memory of our dear aunt, Rose Haber. It truly meant so much to us.
 Dina Cotton and Robert Berg

To my Beth David Family,
 Thank you for all your kindnesses, the confidence you have in me, and for nominating me as Beth David's recipient of the Yasher Koach award from Federation.
 Todah Rabah and Happy Chanukah,
 Paula Rubin

