

April - May Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	6:40 am
<i>*Except April 10</i>	9:00 am
<i>*Except April 6-9, 20; May 19</i>	6:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am

EVENINGS (times constant)

Friday	7:15 pm
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EVENINGS (times vary)

Sunday-Friday, March 22-27	7:05 pm
Shabbat, March 28	6:40 pm
Sunday-Thursday, March 29-April 2	7:10 pm
Friday-Shabbat, April 3-11	<i>see Pesach schedule</i>
Sunday-Thursday, April 12-16	7:25 pm
Shabbat, April 18	7:20 pm
Sunday-Thursday, April 19-23	7:35 pm
Shabbat, April 25	7:25 pm
Sunday-Thursday, April 26-30	7:40 pm
Shabbat, May 2	7:35 pm
Sunday-Thursday, May 3-7	7:50 pm
Shabbat, May 8	7:40 pm

Sunday-Thursday, May 10-14	7:55 pm
Shabbat, May 16	7:50 pm
Sunday - Thursday, May 17-21	8:05 pm



Happy Passover!



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CHAVLINE

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From the Rabbi

The holiday of Pesach, including all of its Mitzvot, is the holiday about the importance of the family. When Hashem told Moshe to sacrifice the lamb for Pesach, He says to take one lamb for the whole household. The Torah also says, take a sheep for your family, and slaughter it as a sacrifice for Pesach.

Nowadays, the night of the Seder is the substitute for the sacrifice of Pesach. Also, in this mitzvah, the whole family participates: the men, women and the children. The Haggadah emphasizes the four sons. Why is it important to say that the Torah talks about four sons? The reason is because the children were the focus of the redemption from Egypt.

In the beginning of the book of Shemot, the Torah emphasizes the family, as it says, "and these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt, each man and his household." Pharaoh understood that the family and the future generations are vital for the Jewish nation. Therefore, his decrees were meant to hurt the future generations. First, he ordered the midwives to kill all the newborns, and when the midwives ignored his decree, he told his nation to throw all the Jewish baby boys into the Nile. In the negotiation between Pharaoh and Moshe, Moshe said that he wants to leave for three days to sacrifice to Hashem. Pharaoh asked, "Who is going?" Pharaoh wanted only the adults to go and come back, but Moshe said, "with our children and our elders, with our sons and our daughters, we shall go."

Obviously, Pharaoh tried to eliminate the education of the tradition to the children so they wouldn't be able to carry on the Jewish tradition. At the Seder, the Haggadah lists the four sons and the wise is mentioned first. Next, the Rasha (wicked son) son, after that, the simple, and only in the end the son who does not know how to ask. In this order, the Torah tries to hint that this is the order of priority when we have to pay attention to our different children.

First, the very intelligent children, who will eventually take care of themselves. Then we go straight to the children who distance themselves from the family and from the tradition, in order to pull them back with ropes of love. Next are the mediocre children, who need a little push. The last are the children with learning disabilities who don't even know what to ask, who we have to take much more time with them.

The family is the center of the nation, and the children are the focus of the family. At the Seder, let's focus on the family, and the children, who are the next generation to come.

Rabbi Aminadav Adamit

From the President

We are always busy at Beth David; every month there is so much to attend to. In March we had the Purim Seudah, sisterhood meeting, the monthly luncheon and speaker, and a Shul board meeting, along with the weekly learning sessions.

We are now also working on the beginning of the transformation of the mikvah which, will be a very large and expensive project but very necessary. Susan Wright, along with Lori Tuberman and Lisa Feigenbaum, our interior decorator, are working out the new design for the mikvah. As this project moves forward I will bring you more details.

The reason that I am mentioning all of this is because the many people that are responsible for all of these events do this work because our shul means so much to them and for the pleasure of the congregation. All that is asked from you is that you attend and enjoy and contribute as you see fit.

When we come to shul on a Shabbos morning and there is hardly anyone there to have a minyan it is disheartening. Please remember how hard we all work to make our shul a very special place and how important it is in all our lives.

Please do your part so that we are together in making our shul an outstanding place for all of us to enjoy.

Have a beautiful Passover.

Saba Wiesner, President

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Marcy & Gavriel Yonaty in memory of **Ethel Aaron Houser**

Marie Werner wishing all a **Chag Sameach**

Rika & Steven Katz in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, **Hadara Sima Reifman**, and wishing the Beth David Congregation a Happy Passover

Sam & Claire Ladenheim in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their great granddaughter, **Sarina Gottesman** of California

HAPPY PASSOVER

Pesach Customs and Practices

When: Pesach begins on Friday, April 3rd at night, and lasts through the day of Shabbat, April 11th.

Prohibition of Chametz: It is not only forbidden to eat *chametz* on Pesach, it is also forbidden to have *chametz* in our possession or in our sight. Therefore, a thorough **cleaning** of all places where *chametz* may be found is required by the night of **Thursday**, April 2. What is required is to clean all places where *chametz* may be found, used or stored in our homes, basement, pantries, offices, cars, purses and book bags. Don't forget your talit bag! Spring cleaning of rooms and areas that never have *chametz* there is not necessary. *Chametz* products that we are not consuming or throwing away before Pesach should be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Dishes and utensils used for *chametz* should also be stored separately in order to avoid the mistaken use of these during Pesach.

Kitchen Preparation: We only use Pesach dishes, utensils and cookware on Pesach. The kitchen counters and appliances must be made Kosher for Pesach before any food for Passover is prepared in or on them. The **kashering** process differs for each appliance or utensil, and some may not be koshered at all. Please consult a reliable source for the laws and method of kashering, and do not hesitate to ask the rabbi for assistance. Many of the major supervising agencies have kashering guides on their web sites. Kashering must be completed before you burn the *chametz*.

Shopping: Buy only products with a Kosher for Passover label from a reliable supervisory organization. The primary reliable agencies are the OU, the Star-K, the Chof-K, the OK, and KAJ. Many other supervisory agencies are also acceptable, but consult the rabbi before purchasing a product with a kashrut symbol that you do not know is acceptable. Many products can be used on Pesach without a special marking, and most of the kashrut agencies have lists of these on their websites. When in doubt, please ask the rabbi for assistance.

Mechirat Chametz - Selling of the Chametz: The *chametz* that we have not consumed or disposed of before Pesach may not remain in our possession during the holiday. In order to avoid undue hardship or a large economic loss, arrangements can be made to sell the *chametz* to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. As indicated above, all *chametz* remaining in your home must be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Non-Passover utensils can be stored separately since we do not need to sell these. In order to execute a legally and halachically binding sale, you must complete the authorization form found in this *ChaiLine* and submit it by 10:00 am on Friday, April 3. It is preferable to do this in person, but forms submitted to the office or by mail are also acceptable.

Bedikat Chametz – Search for Chametz: We check the house and search for any *chametz* that we may not have found during our cleaning after nightfall on Thursday, April 2. It is customary to place 10 pieces of *chametz* around the house prior to the search to make sure that our search is complete. Any *chametz* that we find during our search should be stored or disposed of, except for that which we plan to burn the next morning. Before beginning the search we recite a blessing, and following the search we recite a statement of nullification for any *chametz* that we may not have found. The blessing and nullification can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

Ta'anit Bechorim–Fast of the First Born: The fast of the First Born is held on Erev Pesach, Friday, April 3, to commemorate their deliverance from death during the tenth plague in Egypt. It is customary for the first-born to participate in a meal served in celebration of a *mitzvah*, such as a *Brit Mila* (circumcision) or *siyum* (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud). Those who attend one of these events celebrate with the partaking of refreshments and are then exempt from this fast. A *siyum* will be held at Beth David following *Shacharit* services.

Bi'ur Chametz–Burning the Chametz: It is prohibited to eat *chametz* on Erev Pesach, Friday, April 3, after 10:59 am. All *chametz* must be removed from our possession and the *chametz* found the night before during the search must be burned by 12:03 pm. A statement of nullification of any *chametz* not found or disposed of is recited at the time of burning. The statement can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

Matzah and food on Erev Pesach: It is forbidden to eat matzah during the entire day of Erev Pesach is order that we may hunger for the taste of matzah at the Seder. Under some conditions, foods containing matzah meal may be eaten, as well as egg matzah, which we generally do not eat on Pesach. Please consult the rabbi for specifics. After 4:19 pm we may only eat small quantities of fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs or fish.

Seder Preparation: The special foods for the Seder plate for both *Sedarim* should be prepared during the day of Erev Pesach. The *Kiddush* at the Seder may not be recited until after nightfall on either night. The *afikoman* should be eaten before 1:07 am. Some people have the custom of beginning *sefirat ha'omer* – the counting of the Omer – at the second Seder instead of counting during the evening service.

Candle Lighting and Havdalah: Since the first night of Pesach is Friday night, candles must be lit by 7:13 pm and the blessing recited is *l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat v'shel Yom Tov*. The second night, candles are lit after 8:14 pm, and the blessing is *l'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov*, at which time preparations for the seder are permitted. Havdalah is incorporated into the Kiddush, recited at the seder, as is found in the haggadah. Havdalah is recited on Sunday night after 8:16 pm, using only wine or grape juice. No candle or spices are used at this havdalah.

For the last days, which begin on Thursday night, the blessing on the candles is *l'hadlik ner shel Yom tov*. On Friday night, April 10, candles must be lit at 7:21 pm and the blessing is *l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat v'shel Yom Tov*. Havdalah is not recited at all until after Shabbat on April 11, after 8:22 pm, and the standard havdalah for ending Shabbat is recited.

Eruv Tavshilin – The Mixing of Cooked Foods: The Biblical prohibition against labor on the Festivals specifically does not include the preparation or cooking of food. However, food may only be prepared for that day's use. When a Yom Tov falls on a Friday our Rabbis ruled that we are allowed to prepare food on the holiday for use on the Sabbath only if the preparation begins before the holiday. This is known as Eruv Tavshilin, or the "mixing of cooked foods", and is performed this year on the 4th day of Chol Hamoed, Thursday, April 9, for the last days of Pesach.

With a matzah and any cooked food in hand (such as fish or a hard boiled egg), we recite a blessing and declaration as is found in a siddur or Haggadah.

After Pesach: *Chametz* that was owned by a Jew during Pesach may not be consumed, even after Pesach. The *chametz* that you arranged to have been sold before Pesach will be returned to your possession at approximately 9:25 pm on Saturday, April 11. Price Chopper is Jewish owned and arranged for its *chametz* to be sold to a non-Jew through the Albany Vaad Hakashrut. Weis Markets is Jewish owned and the *chametz* in all the local stores was sold by me, while the stores in other areas have been arranged with other rabbis. The *chametz* at the local JCC, Hillel Academy and our synagogue was sold by me.

This information is accurate as of time of publication. If there are any changes that will affect the ability to purchase or consume *chametz* from or at any of these businesses, I will inform the congregation by e-mail. *If you do not receive e-mail updates from the synagogue, please send a request to rabbisilber@stny.rr.com to be added to our distribution list.*

Beth David Family

Regardless of the weather outside, Beth David is a warm, hopping place inside. Tu B'Shevat, the time we celebrate the new year of our trees, was commemorated with an array of edibles connected to the species grown in Israel. Rabbi Ami Adamit spoke about ecological issues as related in the Torah, and David Serkin showed relevant videos from Israel. Many thanks to Rabbi Adamit for pulling this all together.

Purim was another festive time. *Kol hakavod* to Rabbi Silber. His multiple readings of the Megillah allowed each of us to have the mitzvah of hearing its words. Lori, Melanie, and Samantha Tuberman, along with Maxine Kaplan and Julie Piaker, created unique hamantashen for our eating pleasure. We loved the fruit filled varieties along with this year's new flavors: peanut butter and fluff and peanut butter and jelly. What a treat! To top it all off, we enjoyed a gastronomic delight as we fulfilled the mitzvah of eating a Purim seudah. Saba Weisner and her crew served a delicious meal. In her typical fashion, all was fresh, homemade and a joy to our taste buds.

Florida breezes warmed Susan and Gerry Hubal and Judy and Irwin Simon. Toward the end of the Simon's stay, Judy rendezvoused with Harriet Becker and spent a week on a Caribbean cruise. All of them enjoyed their winter respites. Charney and Pinchas Oppenheim returned to their Jerusalem home after wintering in Florida. While in the states they got to see their children, Heather and Jonathan Douak, and their grandchildren in St. Louis, as well as their son Michael from the cold northeast. In our last issue, I neglected to mention dining with former Binghamtonians Anne and Jeff Rothenberg on Harold and my December visit to Israel. The Rothenbergs spend half the year in Albany and the other half in Jerusalem.

Mazal Tov to Eli Silber on the Bat Mitzvah of his daughter Shayna. Grandparents Judy and Rabbi Zev Silber shepped nachas at seeing Shayna reach this age of Jewish majority. Steve and Rika Katz went to Israel for the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Hadara Sima. She is the daughter of Shira and Daniel Reifman.

During Claire and Sam Ladenheim's month long visit with family in California they had the *zechus* (merit) of celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of their great-granddaughter Serena. She's the daughter of Tami and Ashi Gottesman and the granddaughter of Xianna and Michael Shifman. Claire also enjoyed seeing her great-granddaughter Arielle Gottesman appear in a play, *Living Lessons: a Mashal Nimshal Adventure*. Harold and my granddaughter Chavi, daughter of Rochie and Marc Sommer, were in the same play just a week earlier in Passaic, and I got to kvell at that performance. Keeping in the realm of music, Toby and Harold Kohn's daughter-in-law, Daniel Kohn's wife, Anna Elashvili, and her chamber group, *Bryant Park Quartet*, performed here in town after its engagement in Ithaca. Our community was fortunate to have this world-renowned group in our midst.

Another small world occurrence happened in New Jersey. Yeshivas Beis Hillel (YBH) of Passaic's 7th Graders, coached by Rochie Sommer and Rabbi Heshy Wieder, won first place in a virtual mathematics competition hosted in Jerusalem. They competed amongst a pool of yeshivas and Jewish schools from the East coast. This competition, part of E2K, Excellence 2000, requiring student teams to solve complex problems in geometry, logic, and statistics, is sponsored by the Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE). Rochie is the daughter of Harold and me, and Shimmie Hahn, a member of the winning team, is the great-grandson of Naomi Staiman (and the late Shalom Staiman), grandson of Cathy and Steve Schuss, and son of Adina and Moshe Hahn.

Marion and Shmuel Morell headed to Israel for the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Maoz, son of Eitan and Varda Morell. Marion is enjoying her status as a newly retired teacher. This new-found freedom led the Morells to purchase a vacation home in West Palm Beach. May they enjoy retirement in good health.

Refuah shelemah to Frieda Samuels and Jeanette DeLeon.

Please remember to contact me with your family's happening so I can share them with our readers. Leave a message on my machine at 797-5458 or email me at msasnowitz@gmail.com

And now, we sweep our hamantashen crumbs aside and clear the way for Pesach to enter our homes. We prepare our hearts and our spirits to tell of our redemption from slavery. We're thankful for the freedom we have to perform this mitzvah, and we pray for peace and freedom for our brethren in Israel.

Meryl Sasnowitz

Mitzvah Fund

Toby Kohn, 754-4297 or tgkohn@stny.rr.com
Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Eliezer Silber in honor of Shayna becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber in honor of Shayna becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Thank You to:

Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy
Marlene Serkin Harold & Toby Kohn

Michael & Saba Wiesner

Saba Wiesner in sincere thanks for a fabulous Purim Seudah

Refuah Shelemah to:

Rabbi Aaron Slonim Marlene Serkin
Sam Ladenheim Marni Strauss

In Memory Of:

Ruth Groh, wife of Bob Groh
Reva Shaw, mother of Barry Shaw
Morton Levy, husband of Brenda Levy
John Sternberg, husband of Fern Sternberg

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Sharon Groh & Bob Groh to Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz, with deep gratitude for all your kindness

In memory of Ruth Groh from:

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Maria & Bob Kutz Reuben & Diana Romirowsky

In memory of Riva Shaw from:

Dora & Sol Polachek Susan & Gerry Hubal

In memory of my parents, James & Gussie Berg, from Dina Cotton

In memory of Barrett Raff & Elaine Raff from Kevin Raff

Shul Beautiful to:

Wishing Michael Babat a complete recovery from The Yonaty Family

Sisterhood General Fund from:

Bob Groh & Sharon Groh Mintz thanking Sisterhood for preparing the meal of condolence in memory of Ruth Groh