

Customs and Practices for the “Three Weeks”

Background: The three-week period from 17 Tammuz through 9 Av was a time of tragedy for the Jewish people. Many calamities happened on these specific days and during the time between. The catastrophic events surrounding the Holy Temple in Jerusalem that occurred on those specific days resulted in the long exile, which is still ongoing. On the 17th of Tammuz the walls of Jerusalem were breached during the period of the second Temple, and the 9th of Av marks the day on which both the first and second Temples were destroyed. For that reason it was ordained that this period of three weeks should be observed as days of mourning by the entire nation. Some mourning practices begin on 17 Tammuz and they increase in severity as we approach the 9th of Av.

Since the next *ChaiLine* will first appear after this period begins, we will mention only the customs observed until Rosh Chodesh Av. Those that first apply after that date will be described in the summer edition.

When: The three weeks begin on 17 Tammuz, which occurs on Shabbat, July 4, and continue (*this year since 9 Av occurs on Shabbat*) through 10 Av, which occurs on Sunday, July 26.

The fast of 17 Tammuz: Since 17 Tammuz occurs on Shabbat, the fast is postponed until Sunday, July 5. This day is observed as a fast day, with the fast beginning in the morning at 3:41 am and ending at nightfall, at 9:25 pm.

Mourning practices: During the entire three-week period we do not conduct weddings, we refrain from haircuts, and we avoid listening to live music.

Shavuot Customs and Practices

When: Shavuot begins on Saturday, May 23rd at night, and lasts through the day of Monday, May 25th.

Candle Lighting: As with every Yom Tov, we light candles each night of the holiday, reciting the two *brachot* – one for the holiday (*l’hadlikner shel Yom Tov*) and the *Shehecheyanu*. *Shehecheyanu* is also recited at the end of Kiddush.

Special Note When Shavuot Begins as Shabbat Ends: No preparations for Shavuot may be made until Shabbat is over, this year at 9:07 pm, and until after a statement of Havdalah is recited – *Baruch Hamavdil bein kodesh l’kodesh* – Blessed is He who differentiates between the holiness of Shabbat and the holiness of the holiday. At this time you may light candles for Shavuot (see above for the blessings). **Remember to keep a long lasting candle burning from before Shabbat from which to light the holiday candles, since a new fire may not be created on the holiday.** The regular holiday kiddush is recited on Saturday night, with the addition of Havdalah towards the end. Havdalah is recited on the same cup of wine used for kiddush and includes the blessing for fire (use your Yom Tov candles that are already lit instead of a Havdalah candle, since you cannot extinguish the candle) and the blessing of havdalah, followed by *Shehecheyanu*. No spices are used during Havdalah. On the second night, recite the regular holiday kiddush without additions.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: Since Shavuot commemorates the revelation at Mount Sinai and the acceptance of the Torah, there is a beautiful, time-honored custom to stay awake the entire night of the first day of Shavuot and study Torah. Beth David will host various Torah study groups and lectures the night of May 23. **This year, the first lecture will be held between Mincha and Ma’ariv, then a second lecture immediately after Ma’ariv. Additional lectures will continue after the Yom Tov dinner, at approximately 11:30 pm.** Refreshments will be available to help all attendees remain awake and alert. Those awake all night in Torah studies often participate in a sunrise Shacharit service. This service is held at our shul only if there is assurance that the regular service can be conducted properly.

Megillat Rut: There is a custom to read the scroll of Ruth on the second day of Shavuot. Ruth, who was a convert, accepted the Torah just as the Jews did at Sinai. She was also the great-grandmother of King David, who was born, and died, on Shavuot. We read the megillah before the Torah service.

Dairy Foods: There is a custom to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. Thus, the annual Beth David Sisterhood Shavuot lunch on the second day of Shavuot will be dairy.

Mother's Day and Father's Day

BREAKFAST

10:33 AM, Sunday, June 7

Beth David Synagogue 39 Riverside Drive

Beth David Men's Group

“critically acclaimed to be one of the best breakfast/buffets for the money, great food, great ambiance, a must attend...”

Please make reservation by June 04.

We buy the food on Thurs.

Arrive early for minyan and join “The Minyanaires”.

Send or bring \$9/person. includes all applicable taxes and gratuity. *Such a deal!*

Call me, Charlie, at 765-3304

Always serving: Good food, and Good schmooze.

Calendar of Events

- Sunday, May 17 B D Annual Dinner honoring Marilyn Bell
- Shabbat, May 23 Erev Shavuot
- Sunday, May 24 Shavuot, Day 1
- Monday, May 25 Shavuot, Day 2
Yizkor, Luncheon
- Sunday, June 7 Mother/Father's Day
Breakfast – 10:33 am
- Wednesday, June 10 Sisterhood Closing Mtg.
7:00 pm
- Thursday, June 18 Shul Board Mtg.
- Shabbat, June 13 Monthly Shabbat Luncheon
- Sunday, July 5 Fast of the 17th of Tammuz,
3:41 am-9:25 pm

Beth David Calendar

Next year's calendar is now being compiled. If you have any additions, deletions and/or corrections, please send them to bethdavidbinghamton@gmail.com.

If you have not received a calendar in past years and would like to be added to the list, or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Marlene Serkin at mserkin@stny.rr.com or 729-3235.

There is no charge for yahrtzeit listings and birthdays and anniversaries of those living at your home. If you wish to list birthdays and/or anniversaries of anyone not living at your home, there is a \$10 per listing charge.

The cost of the calendar is \$15.00. Ads can be placed at a cost of \$45.00, which includes a copy of the calendar. If we do not hear to the contrary, your ad from last year will be repeated.

If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Serkin.

Contributions

General Fund from:

Howard Zendle in memory of Abraham Zendle
Gerry & Susan Hubal in memory of Riva Shaw
Brenda Margolis in memory of Hershey Rozen
Robert & Charney Oppenheim in memory Freda Samuels
Robert & Maria Kutz in memory of Paula Rubin's brother
Shelly Goldman Black in memory of Ruth Groh
Elaine & Terry Bollinger in memory of Ruth Groh
Rabbi Dov & Ellen Fischer in memory of Ruth Groh
Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine in honor of Rabbi Silber's birthday
Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine thanking Judy Silber for all her work at the Shul
Marlene Serkin thanking Toby & Harold Kohn
Marlene Serkin thanking Rabbi & Judy Silber for their hospitality
Rabbi Dov & Ellen Fischer thanking the Shul members for all their help

Shul Beautiful to:

Mark & Svetlana Budman on the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth, by Ruth Goldstein
Marilyn Bell, wishing her a Refuah Shelemah by Irwin & Judy Simon
Marilyn Bell, on the birth of her grandson, Yonah Aaron, by Irwin & Judy Simon
Rose Haber on the loss of her sister, Freda Samuels, by Lillian Zodikoff

Shabbat Luncheon Fund from:

Saba & Michael Wiesner in memory of Doris Zolty
Marie Werner

Sisterhood Contributions:

Steve & Dora Feuer made a contribution toward the Shavuot Luncheon

Give Double Chai

Pesach is over, spring is finally here. It is wonderful to see the green grass and feel the warm sun again.

On behalf of Beth David, I want to thank those of you who have heeded the plea and sponsor our *ChaiLine*. You are what keeps us going.

You can be a sponsor for a minimum donation of \$36.00, sent to the shul before the next issue (July 5, 2015). Some good reasons to sponsor include births, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, anniversaries, commemorating a yahrtzeit, a new job, a graduation, or any other cause you wish to celebrate or commemorate. For a donation of \$18.00 you can have a thank you printed.

Our **\$180.00 Special Sponsors** get special recognition for their generous contribution.

We hope to hear from you soon and number you among our contributors.

Marlene Serkin

ChaiLine coordinator