

May-July Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)	
Sunday	8:30 am
* <i>Except May 24</i>	9:00 am
Monday-Friday	6:40 am
* <i>Except May 25</i>	9:00 am
* <i>Except May 19, June 17-18, July 17</i>	6:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am
EVENINGS (times constant)	
Friday	7:15 pm
EVENINGS (times vary)	
Sunday-Thursday, May 17-21	8:05 pm
Shabbat, Monday, May 23-25	<i>see Shavuot schedule</i>
Tuesday-Thursday, May 26-28	8:15 pm
Shabbat, May 30	8:00 pm
Sunday-Thursday, May 31-June 4	8:15 pm
Shabbat, June 6	8:05 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 7-11	8:20 pm
Shabbat, June 13	8:10 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 14-18	8:25 pm
Shabbat, June 20	8:15 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 21-25	8:30 pm
Shabbat, June 27	8:15 pm
Sunday-Thursday, June 28-July 2	8:30 pm
Shabbat, July 4	8:15 pm
Sunday, July 5	8:15 pm
Monday-Thursday, July 6-9	8:25 pm
Shabbat, July 11	8:10 pm
Sunday-Thursday, July 12-16	8:20 pm
Shabbat, July 18	8:05 pm
Sunday-Thursday, July 19-23	8:15 pm

Shavuot Schedule

Friday, May 22	Candle lighting	8:06 pm
	<i>Blessing: L'hadlik ner shel Shabbat</i>	
	Mincha/Ma'ariv	7:15 pm
Shabbat, May 23	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Mincha	8:00 pm
	1st Torah Study Session	8:30 pm
	Ma'ariv	9:10 pm
	Candle lighting	<i>after</i> 9:13 pm
	<i>Blessing: L'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov and Shehecheyanu</i>	
	2nd Torah Study Session	9:25 pm
	Yom Tov Dinner	9:45 pm
	<i>Tikun Leil Shavuot -</i>	
	<i>All night Torah study begins</i>	11:30 pm
Sunday, May 24	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv	8:10 pm
	Candle lighting	<i>after</i> 9:08 pm
Monday, May 25	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Yizkor	approximately 10:45 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv	8:10 pm
	Yom Tov ends	9:09 pm

You Are Invited To Dinner The First Night of Shavuot
Saturday, May 23
JOIN US FOR SERVICES, DINNER AND STAY FOR AT LEAST ONE TORAH STUDY SESSION, AND THE DINNER IS ON US!
Reservations required by Friday, May 30!
RSVP to rabbisilber@stny.rr.com or 761-7098
Dinner Sponsored by Rabbi Zev and Judy Silber

E-Mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com

Web Site: BethDavid.org

CHAVLINE

INSIDE

Sisterhood	2
Shavuot Customs	2
Shavuot Schedule	4
Beth David Family	3
Minyan Schedule	4

"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME LVI, ISSUE 5

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

May-June, Shavuot - 2015/5775

From the Rabbi

As I wrote in a previous message, the holiday of *Shavuot* is an enigma. It is the only holiday that does not have a unique symbol associated with its observance. Rosh Hashanah has the Shofar, we fast on Yom Kippur, eat matzah on Pesach, dwell in the Sukkah and take the lulav and etrog on Sukkot, but on *Shavuot* there is nothing Biblically commanded as its own unique observance. The few customs that we do have are all rabbinical in nature.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons that *Shavuot* seems to be a "forgotten" holiday among many Jews. With no special ritual and practice to prepare for and celebrate, its date on the calendar is not noted in advance.

For me, however, *Shavuot* is perhaps the most important holiday of the year. I see *Shavuot* as the reason that I celebrate all the other holidays, and indeed why I believe in Judaism, as opposed to any other belief system or none at all.

Another name for this holiday is *z'man matan Torateinu* - the time that we received the Torah -- and that it commemorates the revelation on Mount Sinai. This revelation, when God spoke to the entire Jewish people and shared with them the most precious gift of the Torah, is what makes Judaism unique. Contrary to other religions that base themselves on a supposed revelation to an individual who then shares the experience with others, the revelation that occurred on *Shavuot* was experienced and witnessed by the entire Jewish people, a group of several million individuals.

Jews are not known for their passivity. When presented with something as fact, we do not hesitate to dispute and question. Judaism itself is based on questions, and we examine every belief and put every statement under the microscope.

When Moshe wrote in the Torah and reported verbally in his speech in Deuteronomy (see chapter 5:5-14) that we should not forget what we experienced when God spoke directly to us, and that we should tell our children about the events, there would have been an outcry from the people if it didn't happen. That is the Jewish way.

Instead of protesting, the tradition of the revelation at Mount Sinai was transmitted from generation to generation, and eventually from my grandfather to my parents and them to me. I know that it happened because they taught me, and testified to its truth.

Because of the holiday of *Shavuot*, celebrating this revelation, I celebrate all the other holidays and observe and study as much of the God-given Torah as I can. Because of the event that happened on this day, I tenaciously adhere to Judaism, as had all previous generations,

despite all attempts to destroy its teachings and its adherents. So, let us all gather this year on the first night of *Shavuot* to study some of the Torah which is God's gift to the Jewish people. Let us begin to attend Torah classes throughout the year, to gain a greater understanding of what God expects from us. Let us renew our relationship with God and His Torah.

Chag Sameach!
Rabbi Zev Silber

From the VP

...It has been said that Abraham was not the first Jew. Abraham, when Hashem spoke to him, is said to be the first to relinquish idolatry and choose to believe and have *faith* in the one Hashem. Historians have determined Abraham lived around 1950-1900 BCE. The drought and famines that made our +/- 70 ancestors choose to move to Egypt, occurred around 1900-1850 BCE. *We became Jews* when we received the Torah on Mt Sinai around 1450-1400 BCE. So for 400 years they lived in a foreign land, under the rule of a polytheistic society that believed their rulers, the Pharaohs, were deities with supreme power. They lived under a governing system of Egypt, that is documented to have existed for more than 4,000 years. It was a government whose armies had conquered many peoples in the lands around them. In that environment, living under the laws of Egypt, our ancestors maintained their *faith* in One Hashem. And when they were oppressed, Hashem spoke to Moses, and he, with Aaron, led a peaceful, political revolution of more than a million people against an unjust regime. With *faith* in Moses and, by extension, *faith* in Hashem, our ancestors left Egypt and went out into the desert. That *faith* defeated the great Egyptian army at the Sea of Reeds. A *faith* that Hashem would provide food and water for them in the desert. A *faith* in the gift of Torah, and a *faith* that we would receive the Promised Land. Today, about 3,400 years after receiving the Torah our *faith* is now, as it was then, *participatory*.

Our ancestors left Egypt. They had to gather the manna Hashem provided each day or it would spoil, except on Shabbat. They were given the Promised Land, but they had to conquer it from the people who were living in it.

It requires our efforts to maintain our synagogue, our community and ourselves. Beth David and our Jewish Community need us all to "turn it up a notch" and "keep the faith". Our participation is required, it is not a spectator sport.

Chag sameach.

Charlie Manasse, 1st Vice President

Shavuot Issue

BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE
 39 Riverside Drive
 Binghamton, NY 13905
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Binghamton, NY 13905
 PERMIT NO. 228

Sisterhood

Going, going, gone! is usually the call at an auction, but not so at the annual InterSisterhood event, a Chinese auction of Judaica, held at Beth David this past April 28. It was more like if you want it, take it from someone who has it. Some of the more popular items were goggles that prevented the eyes from tearing while cutting onions, a bagel platter, and a challah knife with a ceramic challah handle. There were also a number of Jewish oriented jewelry pieces. It was a fun evening and a good time was had by a well attended crowd representing Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Thanks to Dora Polachek and Roz Antoun for all their efforts coordinating this event.

By the time you read this article, our next program will have occurred: our annual Donor Dessert, which will have taken place May 13 at the home of Rhonda Levine, featuring a fashion show by Christopher and Banks. This event is always a big hit.

The next date to look forward to, and attend, is May 25, the second day of Shavuot, when Sisterhood will serve a dairy luncheon prepared by Marcy Yonaty and her crew. Always delicious and always fabulous! It is a Yom Tov; Yizkor is recited, but Sisterhood's focus is the luncheon. A lot of effort is expended, so please come and join us and enjoy the holiday together!

Claire Ladenheim,
Sisterhood President

Calling All Graduates

Please notify Meryl Sasnowitz, 797-5458, or msasnowitz@gmail.com, if there is a graduate in your family this year. We would like to compile our yearly list of graduates in the Beth David Family and the only way we can do this is with your help.

3 Steps to a Successful Beth David Event

1. Let the office know the date and time of the event as soon as possible and call in set-up no later than one week prior to the event.
2. Reserve kitchen time – call Hadassah Gold, 772-8410; all ingredients and menu must be cleared by the Rabbi.
3. If you want publicity on your event, I need to know a minimum of 4 weeks ahead for 2 articles in

The Reporter:

Paula Rubin,
797-0181

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Ami & Sarah Lynn Adamit on the birth of their new granddaughter, Lia
Tony & Merri Pell-Preus on the birth of their new granddaughter, Dora Rebecca
Judy Silber in appreciation for her Chesed to our elders
Marilyn Bell on the birth of her new grandson, Yonah Aaron

Thank You to:

Judy Simon, Meryl Sasnowitz, Cathy Velenchik, Marlene Serkin, Saba Wiesner & Toby Kohn in appreciation for kindness to Yehuda Weissman

Refuah Shelemah to:

Jeannette DeLeon
Adrian Sulee
Lynn Weiss

In Memory Of:

Freda Samuels
Marjorie Bank (mother of Les Bank)

Rummage/Recycle Sale

May 31, June 1, June 2

Set-up Sunday, May 31 @ 8:30 am

We Need Your Help

Call Marlene (729-3235) to volunteer

Shavuot Luncheon

Please join us for the annual Shavuot Luncheon on Monday, May 25, following services. Marcy Yonaty and her committee have been working hard to assure you of a delightful dairy repast.

Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has sent us best wishes and has made donations to The Synagogue for our 50th wedding anniversary.
Leonard and Valerie Preston

Beth David Family

Maybe we can finally say the “S” word – Spring! What a joy to see the buds popping with colors to delight the eye and aromas to engage our noses.

Sheldon Edison and Marcy and Gavi Yonaty returned home from their Florida winter retreats. It's a joy to see them back at shul. Going to services brings spiritual renewal and a sense of community, especially when a minyan allows those saying kaddish to fulfill the mitzvah. It also brings surprise when we unexpectedly see former members who returned for a few days. One recent Shabbat we were greeted by Craig Goldman and his son Seth, of Teaneck, who were visiting Craig's dad, Gerry Goldman. Another week we had the pleasure of Hess family members in our midst: brothers Gary and David, sons of Harry Hess and Liz Langley, and two of their sons, who were in town for a family simcha. Now and then we enjoy the company of Ani and Brad Lipshitz, two former BU students who return to see family. They happily celebrated the birth of a son this past winter.

Anna Binstock and Alexander Preus, of Pittsburgh, welcomed a daughter, Dora Rebecca, into their family. Grandparents Merri Pell-Preus and Tony Preus are smitten! Marilyn Bell kvelled at the brit of her grandson, Yonah Aharon. Even his spitting up all over her clean clothes didn't faze this seasoned grandma! He's the son of Jen and David Bell, of Passaic, NJ. Sarah Lynn and Rabbi Ami Adamit spent Pesach in Israel bonding with their new granddaughter Lia, daughter of Batsheva and Gilad Adamit. Also in Israel for Pesach were Ruth and Howard Buschman. They stayed with their daughter Susie Erez and her family. Roz and Harry Wiesel were fortunate to spend Pesach in Israel with their children Yocheved and David Wiesel and their grandchildren. After the chag, the Wiesels enjoyed a couple of weeks in sunny Greece. Claire and Sam Ladenheim's NJ Pesach was spent with their children Susan and Robert Grosberg and the extended family.

Susan and Michael Wright and Kerry Wright escaped some of this winter's chill by spending time with Susan's mother in Boynton Beach, FL. Barbara and Les Bank flew to California for their get-away. It was their pleasure to visit with children Amy and David Bank, and to hear their daughter Jenni at one of her opera performances. Rhonda Levine and Arie Ullmann visited her son Andrew in the Napa region of California. Perhaps this was a prelude to post retirement travel, as both Rhonda and Arie just completed their respective academic careers. May they have strength of mind and body as they walk through the next chapter in their lives.

Mazal Tov to grandparents Judy and Rabbi Zev Silber and to Uncle Elie Silber on the Bat Mitzvah of Tiferet, the daughter of Avital and Elie Weissman, of Plainview. LI. Doba Abrahams and Zev Rudberg, two of our newest “family” members, were feted with a luncheon Kiddush **Sheva Bracha** compliments of some of BD friends. It gave the Rudbergs a chance to meet our members and to unwind after their long drive from their homes in Austin.

Several of our members celebrated “special” birthdays. Sima Auberbach was feted both here at her Pesach table by her extended family and in NYC with her longtime friends. Susan Gilinsky enjoyed a 17-day cruise with her husband Charles. Rabbi Silber was surprised with a festive Kiddush celebration. He learned that nothing escapes us at Beth David. Some of us bonded during a recent expedition to Christopher & Banks shop to select clothing to wear for the upcoming Sisterhood Donor. We shared laughs as we experimented with looks we hadn't tried before. A big thank you to Judy Simon, Harriet Horwitz, Marie Werner, and Lillian Sommer who graciously agreed to model. Although I don't normally discuss Sisterhood events, I do so now to encourage others to get involved. A little time here and there can bring laughter and a sense of well-being to your hearts.

Marcy Yonaty knows that feeling. She and her wonderful crew are shopping, slicing, and baking to prepare our annual Shavout luncheon. Although Marcy often proclaims, “this is my last year,” we know her love of the shul keeps her motivated to continue her Shavout tradition. Refuah shelema to Jeanette DeLeon.

We mourn the loss of Freda Samuels, long time Beth David member. May her sister, Rose Haber, find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. We also mourn the loss of Marjorie Bank, mother of Les Bank. May Barbara and Les Bank and their extended family know no more sorrow. I hope to see you in shul for Shavout. You can join our Torah Tours' students for lively discussions, feel the joy of our ancestors as they anticipated receiving our Torah on Mount Sinai, and top it all off with a delicious luncheon.

Meryl Sasnowitz

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Marcy & Gaby Yonaty
in memory of **Steve Schneider**

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