

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 3 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 3 weeks begin on 17 Tammuz, which occurs on Tuesday, July 11, and continue through 9 Av, which occurs on Tuesday, August 1.

The fast of 17 Tammuz: This day is observed as a fast day, with the fast beginning in the morning at 3:40 am and ending at nightfall, at 9:22 pm.

Mourning practices: During the entire 3-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 Tuesday, May 30th at night, and lasts through the day of Thursday, June 1st.

Candle Lighting: As with every Yom Tov, we light candles each night of the holiday, reciting the 2 brachot – one for the holiday (*l'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov*) and the *Shehecheyanu*. *Shehecheyanu* is also recited at the end of Kiddush.

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 30, beginning at 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.

How to Contact Your Rabbi

Rabbi Silber's office hours will be: Tuesdays, 10:00 am -12:00 noon.

Please feel free to stop by at these times, even without an appointment. If you need to consult with the rabbi and these times are not convenient for you, please call Rabbi Silber and you can work out a mutually acceptable time.

Occasionally these hours need to change, and changes are listed in the weekly announcement sheet distributed each Shabbat at services.

If you need to contact the rabbi, there are several ways that this can be done:

- Call the shul office (722-1793) and leave a message with Julie who will contact him
- If it is not urgent, you can e-mail the rabbi at rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
- In case of emergency, you can call or text the rabbi's cell phone:
Rabbi Silber can be reached at 761-7098.

MAY SHABBAT LUNCHEON HONORS NATE NOSS

Nate Noss, who graduated Binghamton University this year, was the guest of honor and guest speaker at the May Luncheon. Nate has been coming to the Beth David morning minyan every day for the last 2 years, has walked in from Vestal every Shabbat to help with Shabbat minyan, has been a weekly Torah reader and often leads the services.

As the recipient of the Ilene Goldman Minyan Scholarship, he decided that in order to encourage other students to attend weekday minyan he will forgo the scholarship award in order to offer BU students who attend a \$5 stipend for each morning they join us for minyan. This generous and thoughtful plan resulted in a significant increase in the frequency of successfully having a minyan during the weekdays. In order for this to happen, he recruited students and community members who can drive them from Vestal and he saw his dream come to fruition.

Nate spoke about this program and about the opportunities for Beth David to partner with Binghamton University students in order to bring new life to the synagogue and give the students a sense of satisfaction in helping the local Jewish community. He also spoke about the benefits of having a minyan where kaddish can be recited, both for the community and for the individual.

Even though Nate is leaving the community to continue his studies at Ner Israel Rabbinical College in Baltimore, MD, he has left behind a core of students who plan on continuing this program next year and who plan on recruiting additional students to join us at morning minyan, both from incoming freshmen and from returning upperclassmen.

Nate's efforts on our behalf have been greatly appreciated by those who attend minyan, and we wish to invite more community members to join us.

We were honored to express our gratitude to Nate's parents, Arthur and Karen Noss, of St. Louis, who joined us for Shabbat as we honored their son.

Contributions

General Fund from:

Rhonda Levine & Arie Ullmann to the Kutz Family
in memory of Marvin Kutz
Shelly Goldman Black to the Kutz Family in memory
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Dr. & Mrs. Jerome Laffer in honor of the special birthday
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Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz wishing Lillian Zodikoff a
speedy recovery
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90th birthday
Jerry & Elaine Cohen in honor of son Peter achieving the
designation of associate in Society of Actuaries
Kathie Shelly & Edward Cameron
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Shul Beautiful from:

Dina & Joseph Cotton in memory of James and Gussie Berg
and in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of our grandson, Yaakov
Marcy Yonaty
Marilyn Bell to Arline Kutz & Family on the loss of
their husband, father, and grandfather, Marvin
Sy & Judy Simon to Benny & Rivka Kellman on the birth
of their son
Marilyn Bell to Bob Kutz on the loss of his brother, Marvin
Marilyn Bell to Benny & Rivka Kellman on the birth of
their son

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

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Robert & Nancy Basmann
Dora & Sol Polachek in honor of Jeff Platsky

Tree of Life

Rita Shawn

Calendar Note

If you have any additions or corrections for next year's Shul Calendar, or wish to place an ad or cancel one, please send the information to the following email address: bethdavidbinghamton@gmail.com
Work is starting on the updates. Thank you. If you do not receive the calendar and wish to receive it, or do receive it and wish to cancel, please notify mserkin@stny.rr.com.