

39 Riverside Dr
Binghamton, NY 13905

E-mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Web Site: BethDavid.org
607-722-1793
Marlene Serkin, Coordinator
mserkin@stny.rr.com

CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

CHANUKAH 2017/5778

Vol. LIX, Issue II

FROM THE RABBI

We are all familiar with the miracle of Chanukah. After the Maccabees recaptured the Holy Temple from the Syrian-Greeks and purified it, they found only one flask of pure oil with which to light the Menorah in the Temple. New pure oil would not be available for 8 days and there was only enough oil to light for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for 8 days until new oil could be produced.

How exactly this miracle occurred is not explained in the Talmud. One of the suggestions advanced by the rabbis is that they divided the oil into 8 parts and each day they lit the Menorah and it miraculously remained lit for the entire day.

This explanation of the miracle would explain why we say the complete *Hallel* on each day of Chanukah.

When discussing *Hallel* for the holidays, the rabbis note that we recite the full *Hallel* on each day of Sukkot and only an abridged *Hallel* after the first days of Pesach because on Sukkot a different offering was brought in the Temple on each day, while on Pesach it was the same offering each day of the holiday. Therefore, on Chanukah, when we light a different number of candles each day, we also recite a full *Hallel*.

Each day of Chanukah represents a new miracle, because a small amount of oil lasted for the entire day.

The lesson and challenge for us is that we need to see the uniqueness of God and the miracles that He performs for us each and every day. Every day is unique, every day is special, and each and every day God helps us and provides for us in the special way that we need his assistance. During our services we thank God every day, because what He has done for us today is different than what He did yesterday, and He deserves our thanks again.

Chanukah teaches us to value every day and the opportunities that we have each day to recognize God's actions in the world and our need to make every day special for us, our families and our community.

I wish you a Chanukah *Sameach!*

Rabbi Zev Silber

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since my last article a few of our dear congregants have left our Shul and our community: Dr. Alvin and Renee Greenberg, Claire Ladenheim and Bob and Barbara Ruchames. They will be sincerely missed and we wish them much happiness in their new homes.

Some good news in the financial business of our Shul, we have been awarded two grants, one from the Rozen Foundation in the amount of \$7,000.00 and from The Community Foundation for South Central New York, David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund in the amount of \$7,200.00.

I want to sincerely thank the members of these Foundations for their kind consideration of our Shul's needs. With these funds we have repaired our roof and our heating system which were in desperate need of work.

All other aspects of our Shul are doing well; we are always upgrading and remodeling to keep the Shul beautiful. Our Speaker and Luncheon on the second Shabbat of the month are very successful and bring approximately 45 people each time which is wonderful and we would like to invite you to join us and enjoy. We could certainly use more people on Shabbat mornings and for minyan during the week so please help, you will be amazed what a good feeling it is to be a part of this gathering.

It is our Shul, all of ours. In order to keep it a part of our lives it takes more than a check for dues or a contribution which of course we appreciate. We need you to come and participate. As president I do all I can in the financial end and to keep the place beautiful but we need you, all of you, even if it is occasionally, to be a part of what we all know is an important aspect of our lives.

Have a wonderful and beautiful Chanukah!

Saba Wiesner, President

Chanukah Customs and Practices

When: Chanukah begins on Tuesday, December 12th at night. The last candle is lit on Tuesday night, December 19th and the holiday ends at nightfall on Wednesday, December 20th.

Work is permitted on Chanukah (except for Shabbat). Women have a custom not to work for the first 30 minutes after the candles are lit.

Food: Holiday meals are not required, but we do have a custom to celebrate with special meals. Some people eat dairy on Chanukah, there is a custom to partake of latkes and jelly donuts. Children have a custom to play dreidel and other games related to Chanukah.

Special prayers: We add *al hanissim* in Grace after meals and the *amidah*. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. We recite *hallel* and a special Torah reading each morning. On the Shabbat that coincides with Chanukah we read from 2 Torah scrolls and a special *Haftarah* for Chanukah. Monday and Tuesday, December 18-19 are Rosh Chodesh, and we will read from 2 Torah scrolls.

Candle lighting: We light one oil lamp or candle on the first night, adding an additional candle each night, until we light 8 candles on the last night. It is customary to first light a *Shamash*, a helper candle, from which we light the rest. Candles should be large enough, or use sufficient oil, for the lights to burn for at least 30 minutes.

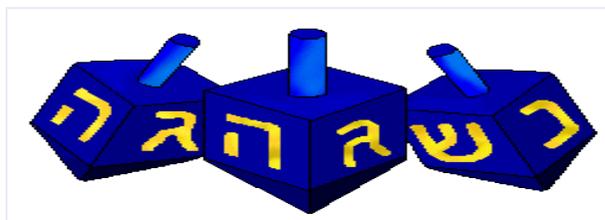
Placement: Our custom is to place the *chanukiah* by a window that faces the street. If not placed by the window, it should be placed by the main house door, opposite the *mezuzah*.

When do we light: Candles should be lit after nightfall (5:16 PM), except for Friday night (see below), or as soon thereafter as possible, but no later than dawn. In emergency situations candles may be lit earlier on condition that there is enough oil or large candles to remain lit until at least 5:46 PM. Please consult the rabbi.

How do we light: We place the first candle on the right side of the *chanukiah* as we face it, and add each new candle to its left. We light the *Shamash*, recite the 2 *b'rachot* (3 on the first night) as found in the siddur, and kindle from left to right. The *Shamash* is placed in the *chanukiah* separated from the other candles. It is customary to recite *haneirot halalu* and sing *maoz tzur* following the lighting.

Shabbat and Chanukah: On Friday night, December 15th we light 4 candles (plus the *shamash*). Chanukah candles **must** be lit **before** Shabbat candles, before 4:14 PM. Enough oil or large candles must be used so that they remain lit until at least 5:44 PM. On Saturday night, December 16th we must light **after** Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:15 PM. It is customary to recite *havdalah* at home before lighting the Chanukah candles.

Travelers: If you are on the road, you are still required to light Chanukah candles. Please consult the rabbi for details and how you can observe the mitzvah.



December – February Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	7:00 am
*Except December 18-19; January 17; February 15-16: 6:50 am	
*Except December 25; January 1; February 19:	8:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am
Shabbat Mincha	<i>after Kiddush</i>

EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday - Thursday	7:00 pm
*Except December 25:	4:20 pm
*Except December 28:	4:10 pm
*Except January 1:	4:30 pm

EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday, December 1, 8, 15	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 2, 9, 16	5:35 pm
Sunday, December 3, 10	4:15 pm
Sunday, December 17	4:20 pm
Friday, December 22	4:20 pm
Shabbat, December 23	5:40 pm
Sunday – Monday, December 24-25	4:20 pm
Thursday, December 2	4:10 pm
Friday, December 29	4:25 pm
Shabbat, December 30	5:45 pm
Sunday, December 31	4:25 pm
Monday, January 1:	4:30 pm
Friday, January 5	4:30 pm
Shabbat, January 6	5:50 pm
Sunday, January 7	4:35 pm
Friday, January 12	4:35 pm
Shabbat, January 13	6:00 pm
Sunday, January 14	4:40 pm
Friday, January 19	4:45 pm
Shabbat, January 20	6:05 pm
Sunday, January 21	4:50 pm
Friday, January 26	4:55 pm
Shabbat, January 27	6:15 pm
Sunday, January 28	5:00 pm
Friday, February 2	5:05 pm
Shabbat, February 3	6:25 pm
Sunday, February 4	5:05 pm
Friday, February 9	5:10 pm
Shabbat, February 10	6:35 pm
Sunday, February 11	5:15 pm
Friday, February 16	5:20 pm
Shabbat, February 17	6:45 pm
Sunday, February 18	5:25 pm
Friday, February 23	5:30 pm
Shabbat, February 24	5:50 pm
Sunday, February 25	5:35 pm

SISTERHOOD

On Tuesday afternoon, October 17, Sisterhood hosted a farewell dessert in honor of Claire Ladenheim. We invited the Yiddish Club to join us in honoring Claire. Saba Wiesner spent much time preparing lovely desserts and setting up the buffet table.

On behalf of Claire's many friends an engraved leaf was added to the Tree of Life, expressing our thanks for her many years of dedication. Claire was presented with a framed picture of the leaf to have a remembrance of the occasion. For any of you who would like to be in touch with Claire at her new location, here is her current address:

Claire Ladenheim
 903 State Route 10 Apt: 609
 Whippany, NJ 07981
 Phone# 973-585-7336 Cell# 818-903-8213

The November meeting, presided over by co-president Cathy Velenchik, was the annual Paid-Up dinner. All those members who owed no money to Sisterhood received a free dinner, prepared by Susan Wright and her committee. Dinner was followed by a raffle of donations made by community businesses.

Our Chanukah meeting will be December 13, at 7:00 pm, the second night of Chanukah. Moshe Shmaryahu (and his choir) will present a holiday program. The menorah will be lit, Chanukah games will be available to play, and light refreshments will be served. This meeting will be open to all. Please join us.

Marlene Serkin, co-president

Thank You

Thank you and *yasher koach* to the rabbanim, gabbaim, and all the women who made this year's High Holidays special.

Arich Ullmann and Rhonda Levine

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

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 607-761-7098.

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 on the marriage of their son, Ayal, to Rachel
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on their new grandson, Aryeh Leib
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on their new home
Claire Ladenheim on her new home near her family in Whippany, NJ.
Judy Silber on receiving the Yasher Koach Award
Susan Hubal on receiving the Yasher Koach Award
Michael Wright on receiving the Yasher Koach Award
Ilene Goldman on the marriage of her grandson, Michael, to Avigayl
Craig & Andra Goldman on the marriage of their son, Michael, to Avigayl
Charles Gilinsky on all he does for Beth David.
Dr. Alvin & Mrs. Renee Greenberg on their new home in Cohoes, NY

Refuah Shelemah to:

Marie Werner	Lori Tuberman	Claire Ladenheim
Ilene Goldman	Sheldon Edison	Les Bank
	Judy Simon	

Condolences to:

Betsy Koffman & Family on the loss of her dear father, Burton.
Ruthanne Koffman on the loss of her dear husband, Burton.

High Holiday Kiddush Thanks

Even though the High Holidays seem far in the past, this is the first opportunity for the Congregation, Sisterhood, and me to publicly thank everyone 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.

This year many people deserve double thanks because they volunteered to help more than once due to our dwindling numbers. Volunteers were:

Elisa Alweis, Rita Bleier, Susan Hubal, Toby Kohn, Rhonda Levine, Blake McCabe, Dora Polachek, Gina Santiago, Kathie Shelly, Judy Silber, Lillian Sommer, Lori Tuberman, Samantha Tuberman, Saba Wiesner, and Marcy Yonaty.

Apologies to anyone whose name may have been left off the list. Many thanks also to those not officially scheduled to help (including spouses) who pitched in and helped whenever needed.

*Sincerely,
Cathy Velenchik, Sisterhood Service VP/co-President*

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 (January 31, 2018) will be most appreciated.

Happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin

CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund from:

Elaine & Terry Bollinger	Harriet Horwitz	Jeanne Kravitz
Richard & Lori Lewis		Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz
Brian & Lori Tuberman		Gavriel & Marcy Yonaty
Sheldon Edison to thank Susan & Gerry Hubal for their warm hospitality		
Suzanne Krause in honor of Norman & Marion Rudin and Dr. Alvin & Renee Greenberg		

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Alice Bonis		Toni Grekin
Ruth Goldstein	Nancy & Robert Bassman	Lillian Zodikoff

Shul Beautiful

Mazal Tov to Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of new grandson, Aryeh, from Merri Pell Preus
 Mazal Tov to Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on their new home in Clifton, NJ. from Merri Pell Preus
 Mazal Tov to Rabbi Ami & Sarah Lynn Adomit on the marriage of son Ayal to Avigayl, from Kathie Shelly
 Mazal Tov to Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of their new grandson, Aryeh, from Kathie Shelly
 Mazal Tov to Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on their new home in Clifton, NJ. from Kathie Shelly
 Wishing a *refuah shelemah* to Claire Ladenheim from Kathie Shelly
 Wishing a *refuah shelemah* to Ilene Goldman from Kathie Shelly

In Honor of Claire Ladenheim

Marilyn Bell	Larry & Rita Bleier	Nancy & Robert Bassman
Sheldon Edison	Ruth Goldstein	Gerald & Susan Hubal
Chaim Joy & Cathy Velenchik	Toby & Harold Kohn	Sol & Dora Polachek
Meredith Pell-Preus	Charles & Paula Rubin	Robert & Barbara Ruchames
Gina Santiago	Marlene Serkin	Rita Shawn
Claire Shefftz	Zev & Judy Silber	Lillian Sommer
Brian & Lori Tuberman	Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine	Marie Werner
Saba Wiesner	Marcy & Gavriel Yonaty	Lillian Zodikoff

Tree of Life

Filomena Kiessling

Beth David Family

Greetings! I am writing this column a few days before Rosh Chodesh Kislev (month of Chanukah!), so it has been a couple of months since the last issue and a lot has transpired in the world.

Parts of the country are still recovering from a catastrophic hurricane season. The rash of violent incidents alone have been unsettling. The compilation of national events has certainly made me more attuned to the simple, yet innumerable blessings in my day-to-day life and the lives of my friends and family. The flurry of holidays gave me an opportunity to put this into practice; I joined other members of the community in worship, schmoozing, and eating in a convivial atmosphere, at shul and at the homes of gracious hosts. The affirmation of life and continual gratitude towards *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* underpinned my holiday celebration.

The holidays were interspersed with some Mazal Tovs and noteworthy developments in our community:

Long-time shul member, Mel Rozen, celebrated the birth of his 23rd great-grandchild and Marilyn Bell's daughter, Rachel, purchased a home in Passaic, NJ.

Mazal Tov to Harold and Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of their grandson, Aryeh Leib — named for Meryl's father and a great-grandfather. Aryeh's parents are Tzali and Abigail Lazarus. The *brit milah* was held on *erev* Rosh Hashanah.

Mazal Tov to the son of Varda and Eitan Morell and grandson of Shmuel and Marian Morell, Eliezer Morell, on his recent engagement. Mazel Tov to Ilene Goldman on the marriage of her grandson Michael. Michael's parents are Craig and Andra Goldman of West Orange, NJ.

Mazal Tov to Judy and Irwin Simon on the Bat Mitzvah in Israel of granddaughter Ava, daughter of Isaac and Sandy Simon.

We also have some second-hand, bragging rights; Eli Groner, a Binghamton native, son of our former Rabbi Raphael and Debbie Groner, and current director-general of the Prime Minister's Office (in Israel), was featured in a Jerusalem Post article titled "Meet the Anglos Who Whisper in the Ears of Israel's Leaders." We seldom see Binghamton mentioned in an internationally-acclaimed newspaper!

Three members of the Beth David family were recipients of the Yasher Koach Award at the Federation Super Sunday/Annual Meeting, held on October 22nd: Judy Silber honored (Beth David), Michael Wright (honored by Chabad), and Susan Hubal (honored by Jewish Federation). It is inspiring to see members of our shul, in myriad ways, make meaningful contributions to the Jewish community.

In October, we bade farewell to Claire Ladenheim. In her honor, a farewell dessert was held at Beth David, giving long-time friends and other members of the community a last chance to visit Claire before she moved to NJ be closer to her family. Claire served as president of the Beth David Sisterhood for 11 years. Several members and friends pooled together funds to dedicate a leaf of the Tree of Life at Beth David, in recognition of her contributions to Beth David.

We also want to send best wishes to the following that recently were on the sick list: Sheldon Edison, Norman Rudin, Lori Tuberman, Marie Werner, Les Bank, Judy Simon, and Irwin Simon.

I am indebted to Meryl Sasnowitz and Marlene Serkin for giving me an opportunity to share my time and talents and for feeding me the community news I need to put this column together. I also thank others who felt comfortable to reach out to me to share bits of happy news. I look forward to receiving more!

L'hitraot,

Gina Santiago (Bruriah Rivkah, your novice yenta)

eleatic_stranger@hotmail.com



Thanks to our Sponsors

Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy in memory of Chaim's aunt, **Patricia Alger**
Steve and Rika Katz wishing all a happy Chanukah
Marcy and Gabi Yonaty in memory of **Rita Rozen**

THANKS TO

Moshe Shmaryahu for the beautiful *tefillot*

Aaron Alweis for arranging all the honors, his excellent work as *gabbai*, expertly finding replacements for planned honors, and changing the ark curtains and Torah covers

Leonard Preston for handling the seating arrangements for the Yom Tovim

Cathy Velenchik for the Yizkor announcements

Lillian Zodikoff for making the weekly reminder calls for the Kiddush workers

Marilyn Bell & Julie Piaker for the office work, preparing all the Yom Tov documents, always willing to do anything we need, beyond the call of duty

The women of Sisterhood for supplying, enhancing, and/or presenting the holiday and Shabbat *kiddushim*, Yom Kippur children's lunch, break-the-fast, and Yom Tov candles

Marlene Serkin for all the shopping for the Yom Tov *kiddushim*, preparing the candles, putting out the break-the-fast and the many behind the scenes jobs she takes care of

Cathy Velenchik for providing the Yahrtzeit candles, shopping and arranging for people to serve and clean up for the holiday *kiddushim*

Lori and Brian Tuberman for the flowers in the sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in honor of Maxine & Marvin Kaplan, Brian's parents and Lori's mother, Joyce Harary, and in memory of their fathers Lawrence Tuberman and Jack Harary

Rabbi Zev Silber for excellence in Shofar blowing

Sheldon and Ahren Edison for donating the hering for the *kiddushim* in memory of Sheldon's parents and wife (Ahren's grandparents and mother) and in honor of our *gabbai*, Aaron Alweis

Paula and Charles Rubin for donating the kichel in memory of their beloved son, Stephen

The Chevra Kadisha for sponsoring the Shimini Atzeret Kiddush

Gabi Yonaty, Charlie Manasse, Bob Kutz, Arie Ullmann and Donovan Lyons for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah

The Shabbat luncheon sponsors and speakers throughout the year

Judy Silber for all the time and effort she puts into the monthly Shabbat luncheons

Dora Polachek for arranging for the interesting speakers for the Shabbat luncheons

Barbara Bank and/or David Serkin for proofing each issue of the *ChaiLine*

Arie Ullmann for polishing the silver crowns that adorn our *sifrei* Torah

Susan Hubal and Julie Piaker for taking on the responsibility of producing the *ChaiLine* on the computer

Saba Wiesner for doing a great job as President of the Beth David board and for supplying and serving the refreshments at the board meetings



TODAH RABAH