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CHA/LINE

"The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue"

VOLUME LIX, ISSUE 3 Purim 2018-5778

FROM THE RABBI

The book of Esther, *Megillat Ester*, which we are required to read twice on Purim, once in the evening and again during the day of Purim, describes the attempt by Haman to kill the Jews of the Persian kingdom and how we were saved from annihilation and destruction. Besides celebrating the victory of the Jewish people back in ancient times, I believe that this book can be studied in our generation and time in order to enlighten us to the language of anti-Semitism and how to best fight against it.

Haman, when he introduces his plan to kill the Jews, says to the king: "There is one nation scattered and dispersed among the nations throughout the provinces of your kingdom, whose laws are unlike those of any other nation and who do not obey the laws of the King. It is not in the King's interest to tolerate them." (Chapter 3, verse 8)

Haman attempts to isolate the Jewish people's vulnerabilities in the eyes of the establishment. Even though you can find Jews in every nation, they consider themselves as their own nation, separate from everyone else. They are loyal only to themselves, they have their own laws and customs, their own unique sense of values, and because they are all over they control the political, economic, social and educational life of each nation and of the central government, as well. They are insidious in all areas of society and their goal is to rule the world. In the words of the current government of modern day Persia, Iran, they are a cancer that must be removed.

Such claims find a welcoming home in the hearts of all anti-Semites. Today, the desire for the destruction of Jews and Judaism is being verbalized as being against the State of Israel. But make no mistake that when the cloak of hatred is uncovered, the goal is the destruction of all Jews anywhere in the world.

Yet, ironically, the way to defeat this plague is implicit in the charge itself, and that was apparent in the time of Haman and is still necessary in our times today.

When Mordechai convinces Esther that she must act on behalf of her people, Esther conditions her willingness to take the lead upon one request. She sends a message to Mordechai and demands, "Go and gather all the Jews who are in Shushan and fast for my sake, do not eat and do not drink for three days, night and day ... then I shall go to the king (Chapter 4, verse 16).

If you want to successfully combat this anti-Semitic decree, you must create unity among the Jewish people, and they must prepare a Jewish response. Gather the Jews together, pray together, and act as a unified group who will stand up for their values, for our values.

This prescription is so greatly needed today in order to combat modern day anti-Semitism. Let us start by gathering together in the synagogue on Purim night and morning to observe the laws of Purim: listening to the megillah together, sharing gifts with one another, helping financially the less fortunate in our community and in Israel, and rejoicing in a festive meal together. This will be a great beginning in creating the unity that Esther demanded, and will be the first step in ending the plague of anti-Semitism present in our generation.

Chag Purim Sameach!

Rabbi Zev Silber

Thanks to our Sponsors

Sari Ann Yonaty in memory of Dora Feuer Marlene Serkin in memory of her sister Gloria Lees

Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy in memory of Cathy's cousin, Dr. Jonathan Him-melhoch

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my great pleasure to announce that Rabbi Zev Silber will be the honoree at the Beth David Dinner this year; a very well deserved honor for his dedicated and distinguished career as principal and Rabbi in our Jewish community.

The Dinner will be held on May 6 so please mark your calendar and save the date. We will be sending out invitations in late March.

Purim is coming and I will be planning our Purim Seuda for March 1. We will be sending out flyers and your quick response will help in the planning. I look forward to a nice crowd to share in our Purim celebration.

We continue to beautify our building. Our latest project is the painting and renewing of both offices which has been completed and looks great. Thank you to Victor Shevchenko for always helping to keep Beth David beautiful. The next project that I am looking into is to remodel our kitchen. I am getting estimates and I will let you know in the next *ChaiLine* if that will be a possibility.

A few weeks ago the weather prediction for Saturday was extremely cold weather and it was decided that we would not have services because it was dangerous for people walking to Shul. It was the first time that I ever remembered that we closed the Shul on Shabbat. What a difficult morning it was for me thinking that this is what it would feel like if we no longer had Beth David. We must always remember the importance of our Shul in our lives and support Beth David by being a part of it.

There are lots of events to look forward to. Have a Happy Purim and remember to give Purim charity to those who are needy.

Saba Wiesner President

Purim Schedule

Ta'anit Ester

Wednesday, February 28 Fast begins 5:13 am Shacharit 7:00 am Mincha 5:25 pm

Fast ends 6:35 pm

Purim

Wednesday, February 28	Ma'ariv	6:35 pm
	Megillah	6:45 pm
Thursday, March 1	Shacharit	6:50 am
•	Megillah	7:15 am
Second reading		4:00 pm
\	Mincha	4:45 pm
Purim	n Seudah	5:00 pm



PURIM CUSTOMS and PRACTICES

When: Purim begins on Wednesday, February 28 at night, and lasts through the day of Thursday, March 1. The fast of Esther is observed on Wednesday, February 28.

Work is permitted on Purim. However, we usually spend most of the day in fulfillment of the various *mitzvot* of Purim, as will be enumerated below.

The Four *Parshiot*: There are special Torah readings of the *maftir* during four *shabbatot* from the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Adar until the Shabbat of Rosh Chodesh Nisan. The *Shabbat* before Purim we read *Parshat Zachor* – **remember** – and this serves as an affirmation to remember the evil that occurred to the Jewish people in the past and a commitment to never forget, and never again allow genocidal murder to take place. According to most authorities, hearing this portion of the Torah read is one of the 613 *mitzvot*. You are encouraged to be in shul on Shabbat morning, February 24 to fulfill this obligation.

Ta'anit Ester – the fast of Esther: We fast on the day before Purim in commemoration of the fasting that the Jews observed on the day of the battle. The name of the fast is associated with Queen Esther, as she had declared three days of a national fast before approaching the king to request the annulment of Haman's decree. The fast is observed on Wednesday, February 28. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:13 am and ending at 6:35 pm. It is customary not to eat until after the reading of the Megillah. If you have special circumstances that may make it difficult to fast, or you need to eat before the reading of the Megillah, please consult with the rabbi.

Reading the Megillah: It is a mitzvah to hear the Megillah, the scroll of Esther, read both at night and during the day of Purim. At Beth David we will be reading the Megillah on Wednesday night, February 28 at 6:35 pm and Thursday morning, March 1 at 7:15 am, following Shacharit. If you cannot make the early morning reading, you are invited to join for an additional reading at the shul at 4:00 pm, prior to the festive meal.

It is customary to contribute to synagogue maintenance before hearing the *Megillah*, in commemoration of the *machatzit hashekel*, the three half shekels that were given each year in Adar for the maintenance of the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Matanot La'evyonim – Gifts to the poor: It is a mitzvah to give at least two gifts to each of two poor people on this day as Purim charity. The rabbi will be collecting and distributing Purim charity to local Jewish poor through the Jewish Family Service and to the poor in Israel through the *Od Yosef Chai* organization. Contributions for this purpose should be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and please note how you wish your contribution to be divided, between local or Israel needs. Contributions for local needs must be made by February 22, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning Megillah reading.

Mishloach Manot – food gifts to friends: Commonly known as *shalach manos*, we give at least 2 portions of ready-to-eat foods to at least one other person. The mitzvah of sharing Purim joy through food is commendable, but more of our holiday funds should be allocated for gifts to the poor.

Seudat Purim – the Purim feast: It is a mitzvah to participate in a festive meal on Purim day (not at night). Beth David will conduct its annual Purim Seudah on Thursday, March 1 at 5:00 pm. See announcement in this issue!

Special prayers: On *ta'anit Esther* we add special prayers and Torah reading at both the morning and afternoon services, as is customary for fast days. On Purim we add *al hanissim* in Grace after meals and the *amida*. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. There is a special Torah reading in the morning, before the *megillah* reading. The day after Purim is known as **Shushan Purim** and is the day that Purim is celebrated in Jerusalem. We do not say *tachanun* in honor of day.

FEBRUARY - MARCH MINYAN TIMES

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	7:00 am
*Except: March 1	6:50 am

Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat Mincha *after Kiddush*

Through March 10

EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday - Thursday 7:00 pm

Through March 8

EVENINGS (times vary)

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	6:50 pm
Sunday, February 25	5:35 pm
Wednesday - Thursday, Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 see	Purim schedule
Friday, March 2	5:40 pm
Shabbat, March 3	7:00 pm
Sunday, March 4	5:40 pm
Friday, March 9	5:45 pm
Shabbat, March 10	7:10 pm
Sunday - Thursday, March 11-15	6:50 pm
Friday, March 16	6:55 pm
Shabbat, March 17	6:40 pm
Sunday - Thursday, March 18-22	7:00 pm
Friday, March 23	7:05 pm
Shabbat, March 24	6:45 pm
Sunday - Thursday, March 25-29	7:05 pm

Matanot La'evyonim - Purim Charity

One of the *mitzvot* of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on Purim day. Rabbi Silber will again distribute gifts to local needy through the Jewish Family Service, and to Israeli poor through the Od Yosef Chai charitable organization.

Believe it or not, there are Jewish needy in our city and when they have received help at holiday time, they have expressed great thanks and satisfaction. Purim, being a holiday dedicated to "simcha" – joy, requires us to assure that all Jews can rejoice. The poor rejoice when they have the means to sustain their lives, leading to the importance placed on this mitzvah.

In order to participate in this mitzvah, donations may be sent to the shul or given to the rabbi by February 22. Donors are asked to mark their checks as "Purim charity" and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. Contributions received after February 22 will be sent to Israel. Those contributions may be made up to the *megillah* reading on Purim morning.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood's winter meeting (January 10) at the Endicott Library was interesting and fun. We were shown how to use Ancestry.com, both the free version and the paid for version. There is a lot on the free version if you want to try it. Thank you to Gail M. Szeliga who presented the program. Thank you to Susan Wright, Judy Silber and Cathy Velenchik who brought the refreshments.

Our December Chanukah meeting was highlighted by the Mizmor Shir choir, led by Moshe Shmaryahu. Judy Silber prepared Chanukah games and refreshments with help from Moshe Shmaryahu who made latkes. Thanks to all.

I would also like to thank Nancy Basmann for taking pictures at our meetings and functions and getting them to Rhonda Levine who captions them and sends them on to the "Reporter" in great time. These women are on the ball.

A happy Purim to all.

Marlene Serkin Sisterhood co-President



The Pre-Pesach Workshop will be held on March 14th at 7 pm
At Beth David. It will be led by Rabbi Zev Silber All are welcome

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 tova.kohn844@gmail.com Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Toy to:

Claire Ladenheim on her new home
Susan Hubal on receiving this year's Yasher Koach Award
Michael Wright on receiving this year's Yasher Koach Award
Judy Silber on receiving this year's Yasher Koach Award
Charles Gilinsky for all he does for Beth David
Dr. & Mrs. Alvin Greenberg on their new home
Ilene Goldman in honor of her grandson's marriage
Rabbi Zev & Mrs. Judy Silber in honor of Eliezer's engagement to Stacy Shaunler
Rabbi Aharon & Mrs. Rivky Slonim on the birth of their new grandson
Eliezer Silber & Stacy Shaunler on their engagement
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Jacob on their grandson becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Refuah Shelemah to:

Judy Simon Les Bank Ilene Goldman Rita Shawn

Condolences to:

Sandy Cauff in memory of Shirley
Sy Klionsky in memory of his brother, Bernard Klionsky
Rabbi Ami Adamit in memory of his nephew
Steve Feuer & Family in memory of Dora Feuer
Rabbi Aharon Slonim in memory of his father, Rabbi Zeev Dov Slonim
David DeLeon & Family in memory of his mother, Jeanette DeLeon
Marlene Serkin in memory of her sister, Gloria Lees
Phyllis Ansell-Paushter in memory of her husband, Matthew Paushter



THANK YOU

Thanks for your help during the 8 weeks of my eye surgery and recovery. It was most appreciated.

Rita E. Shawn

I want to thank all those who made donations, sent cards, brought food, made phone calls, and visited during the time of my sitting *shiva* following the passing of my sister, Gloria Lees.

Many of you knew Gloria from her many visits for the High Holidays. She really enjoyed coming here, attending services and getting to see the friends she made. She asked about these friends often

Again, thank you, everything was most appreciated

Marlene Serkin

Warm greetings, Beth David Family!

The alternating periods of biting cold, snow, and abnormally warm (but welcome) temperatures, has not stalled the lives of the members of our Beth David family. *Simchas* and travels illumine this column. Unfortunately, the slivers of happy news have been interspersed with sad news; we have lost longtime members -- or relatives of members -- in the last few months (as noted below).

Leslie and Barbara Bank went to Australia and New Zealand with friends.

Marilyn Bell celebrated her birthday with her son David, his wife Jen and their children, and daughter Rachel — who recently purchased a home in Passaic. Marilyn also spent a few days in Las Vegas.

Toby & Harold Kohn were in Israel for a family wedding in late 2017 and recently spent a weekend visiting with Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz in Passaic.

Rita and Larry Bleier recently returned from a visit to Raleigh, NC, where they took care of their grandchildren while their son, Seth, and daughter-in-law, Maria, attended a business conference.

Mazel Tov to Pinchas and Charney Oppenheim on the birth of their great-granddaugher, Yehudit Chaya, who was born on the morning of January 25th. Yehudit Chaya's parents are Chaim and Miriam Mandel. The Oppenheims were in the United States for the **B**at Mitzvah of their granddaughter Sofia, daughter of Heather and Jonathan Douek.

Mazel Tov to Shmuel and Marian Morell on the recent Bat Mitzvah of Shana Kelner, daughter of Sima Morell and Russell Kelner, Bar Mitzvah of Meir Morell, son of Avi and Beth Morell, and marriage of Elieazer Morell, son of Eitan and Varda Morell (in Israel), to Moriya Fuchs.

Mazel Tov to Mel Rozen on the birth of his 24th great grandchild, a boy, grandson of Michelle Donowitz.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Aaron and Rivky Slonim on the birth of their latest grandson, Mendel Slonim, son of Rabbi Shmuli and Nechama Slonim of Houston, TX

Condolences to the following individuals and their families:

David and Mania DeLeon and Belle and Daniel Prusinowski on the death of their mother, Jeanette DeLeon of Susquehanna, PA—a longtime member of our shul. Our condolences are extended to Jeanette's grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Feuer family on the death of Dora Feuer of Florida—also a longtime member of Beth David. She is survived by her husband Steven Feuer, son Allen, daughter Amy and grandchildren.

Condolences to Rabbi Aaron Slonim and family on the loss of his father, Rabbi Zeev Dov Slonim of Jerusalem, Israel. R' Zeev Dov Slonim was a leading rabbi in Jerusalem who, alongside his wife Gitel Leah, conceived of the *Chitat* (a compendium organized for daily study, consisting of the *Chumash*, *Tehillim* and *Tanya*). A memorial service was held in his honor at Chabad in Vestal on January 25th.

Marlene Serkin's sister Gloria Lees passed away. Gloria made many friends at Beth David during the years she joined the congregation for the High Holidays.

Last, but not least:

We wish a speedy recovery to Ilene Goldman, now living in Delmar, NY

Rhonda Levine and Arieh Ullmann were on a trip to Havana, Cuba and will be speaking about their trip at the February Kiddush Luncheon.

A post-Tu B'Shevat Multimedia Art Show was held in Jerusalem, on the evening of Sunday, February 4. The show, entitled, "Nature in Jerusalem: Through the Eyes and Works of Jerusalem Artists," was organized by Nachama-Hadassah -- with Anne Rothenberg as current president —and featured the work of Sarah Lynn Adamit.

Keep bringing the good news as we slowly but surely emerge from the winter. I am looking forward to a festive and convivial observance of Purim with you!

Gina M. Santiago

Please let Gina know of your *Simchas*, travels, sorrows, or any other doings that would be of interest to our members. She is working very hard to get this information. Thanks.

Gina's email is eleatic_stranger@hotmail.com

Give Double Chai

To those who so generously come forward with their sponsorship donations, you are indeed the *Chai* in the *ChaiLine*.

I would like to thank past, present and future sponsors of the *ChaiLine*. You make it possible for our bulletin to be self-supporting.

Be a sponsor to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, any simcha or a yahrtzeit. Be a sponsor to say thank you for good deeds done or Mitzvah cards received. Whatever your reason, be a sponsor.

Your donation of \$36.00 (regular sponsor), **\$180.00 (Special Sponsor)**, or \$18.00 (thank you), received in the Shul office before the next deadline, (3/4/18) will be much appreciated.

Marlene Serkin *ChaiLine* coordinator

Contributions

General Fund from:

Sy Klionsky in memory of his brother, Dr. Bernard L. Klionsky

Sy Klionsky in memory of Marc Klionsky, renowned Russian and American artist

Neil Auerbach in honor of Charlie Manasse

Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine Dr. Thomas Theise James & Carol Mason Aaron & Miriam Alweis Karen & Arthur Noss Abigail & Tzali Lazarus

Robert Basmann & Nancy Wulwick in honor of Valerie Preston

In Memory of Dora Feuer

Stanley Pelter Sheldon Edison Richard & Naomi Shore Richard & Helen Feder Mr. & Dr. Pollard Phyllis Udell Endre & Aniko Sarkany Seymour Klionsky Drs. Sol & Dora Polachek Harold & Debra Goldberg Bonnie Rozen Robert & Diana Weiss Louis & Maxine Rosenberg Martha Klionsky Stephen & Maria Yonaty Connie & Alan Liss Les & Barbara Bank Mark Yonaty

In Memory of Jeanette DeLeon

John Benson Anna Salvato James Prusinowski Maria & James Maby Carl & Mary Tanner Lois Janove Walter Luberecki Marjorie Wood William Prusinowski

James & Gwendolyn Sarotoris Susquehanna County Farm Bureau

Ruth & Jeffrey Shapiro Linda Vonesch Sara Fives

In Memory of Gloria Lees (sister of Marlene Serkin)

Robert Basmann & Nancy Wulwick Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine Les & Barbara Bank Robert & Maria Kutz

Alan & Julie Piaker Marilyn Bell

Shul Beautiful to:

Charles Gilinsky for his wonderful help erev Yom Kippur from Marcy Yonaty

Steve Feuer & Family in memory of Dora from Judy & Sy Simon

Steve Feuer & Family in memory of Dora from Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz

Al Lavker on his 80th birthday from Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz

Rabbi Aharon & Rivky Slonim on their latest grandson from Kathie Shelly Eliezer Silber & Stacy Shaunler on their engagement from Kathie Shelly

Moshe Shmaryahu on his beautiful Chanukah program & his tasty potato latkes from Kathie Shelly

Ilene Goldman to wish her a speedy recovery from Kathie Shelly Rita Shawn to wish her a speedy recovery from Kathie Shelly

Steve Feuer & Family in memory of Dora from Kathie Shelly

DeLeon Family in memory of Jeanette from Bonnie Rozen

DeLeon Family in memory of Jeanette from Lillian Zodikoff

Sy Klionsky in memory of his brother, Bernard, from Lillian Zodikoff

Marlene Serkin in memory of her sister, Gloria Lees, from Judy & Irwin Simon

Marlene Serkin in memory of her sister, Gloria Lees, from Lillian Zodikoff

Marlene Serkin in memory of her sister, Gloria Lees, from Toby & Harold Kohn

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz wishing Les Bank a Refuah Shelemah

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz wishing Judy Simon a Refuah Shelemah

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz wishing Dr, Rivka Alweis Kol Hakavod

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz in memory of Marlene Serkin's sister

Kevin Raff in memory of Barry Raff

Barbara Wolfson Fern Sternberg Marie Werner
Phyllis & Gerald Heller Drs. Sol & Dora Polachek
Suzanne Holwitt Laura Greger

Tree of Life

In Memory of Dora Feuer

Brian & Marilyn Abramsky Irving & Myra Memis Michael & Saba Wiesner Charles & Paula Rubin Jerry & Ellen Schachter Marilyn Bell Dr. Gerald & Susan Hubal Neisen & Marsha Luks Alan & Marsha Grass Gavriel & Marceline Yonaty Lisa Luks Bourdeau Brenda Levy

BINGHAMTON GET-TOGETHER AT A MOTHER-DAUGHTER LEARNING SESSION IN PASSAIC, NJ



Adults standing are Adina Schuss Hahn(daughter of Cathy Staiman Schuss) and Rochie Sasnowitz Sommer Adults sitting are Meryl Sasnowitz and Sima Morell Kelner Yummy children are progeny.





Beth David Synagogue

39 Riverside Drive • Binghamton



Minchah

Purime

Cestive Jurim Mea

Megillah Reading #2

PURIM THURSDAY

March 1, 2018

Seudah 5:00_{PM}

\$15 per adult \$7 for children under Bar/Bat Mitzvah \$44 maximum per family

RSVP by Tuesday, February 20



Lillian Zodikff 798-9082



Beth David Synagogue Office 722-1793

bethdavid@stny.rr.com