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# CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

VOLUME LX, ISSUE 4  
Pesach, April 2020/5780

## FROM THE RABBI

### **THE PLAGUE OF 2020 – COVID-19**

I am writing this column in the middle of March, the day after a state of emergency was declared in Broome County and throughout most of country, and throughout the world, as the coronavirus continues to spread fear and affliction all around us. Even though there have not been any reported incidents in our community, I am about to announce that weekday services and gatherings at our shul are being cancelled and there is a strong possibility of the cancellation of Shabbat services, as well. This is being done because the Beth David community is comprised primarily of people at higher risk of severe illness because of our age, so added caution is necessary for our community.

We do not know how long this threat will remain, and it is possible that it will extend into the Pesach holiday period. We are obligated to prepare for the holiday, joyously celebrate Pesach, yet be aware and prepare for unusual arrangements as we care for our health and the health of others around us.

I present at this time several things to do that will help us accomplish both goals. I am sure that other things will come up between now and Pesach and I will communicate those by e-mail to the congregation.

*Continued on page 2*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

If we were in normal times I would be reminding our congregation of upcoming happy events, holidays to look forward to and the beauty of Spring coming. We are not in normal times we are in worrisome times that the entire world is facing. My message to you at this time is that we need to get through this terrible situation without anyone getting sick so that when this is over we will celebrate together with ALL our congregation.

The responsibility for that to happen rest with every one of us to be extremely careful and protect yourself from the possibility of getting this virus.

We will keep you informed of any unusual happenings such as closing the Shul if necessary. Please, please be careful during Passover if you are traveling or having guests. Take every precaution to prevent getting sick.

I wish you all a good Passover with your health being of utmost importance.

Saba Wiesner, President

## FROM THE RABBI (Continued from page 1)

SHOP EARLY! Supermarkets have been emptied of many foods, and even such items as kosher meat and poultry have been quickly disappearing from shelves. Even people who do not require kosher foods have been purchasing these items to make sure they have enough food in case they need to be quarantined. I am sure that will also happen with specially marked Kosher for Passover items, such as Matzah, as well. You may wish to consider shopping on line and having your purchases delivered to your homes, in order to avoid being in crowds.

Consider limiting the number of guests that you have for the Seder and other holiday meals in order to limit exposure.

Make sure that you have enough supplies at home, including hand sanitizer when it becomes available again.

Follow the guidelines of the CDC and your physician.

Included with this issue is the form for the sale of chametz. Even though I recommend that this be done with me in person, DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION WHERE WE ARE ADVISED TO AVOID SHAKING HANDS, I RECOMMEND THAT WE AVOID THAT AND THAT YOU SUBMIT THE FORM TO ME BY MAIL OR E-MAIL, OR DELIVERING IT TO THE SHUL OFFICE. PLEASE DO THIS EARLY, TO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS MY HANDS BEFORE THE DEADLINE WHEN I HAVE TO SELL YOUR REMAINING CHAMETZ TO THE NON-JEW.

My Pre-Pesach workshop will probably be cancelled. Please contact me by phone, text or email with any questions you may have. The more time that you give me, the better informed my responses will be.

A final thought: We see how disruptive a plague can be to our lives and our community. Try to imagine how the Egyptians felt when they had to endure 10 plagues within a span of a single year. Although this was determined by God to be necessary, we do not rejoice at the suffering of others. On Pesach, we celebrate our own freedom from slavery and the formation of our nation. We do not celebrate the suffering of others.

Besides our own intense preparations and joyous celebration, please remember to pray for the recovery of all those stricken by the plague of 2020, and for the welfare of their families. Seeing them, our nation, and the entire world recover from this plague, will make this Pesach holiday even more joyous and special.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a *chag kasher v'sameach* – may you have a healthy, joyous and kosher Pesach holiday.

Rabbi Zev Silber

### Thank You

Thanks to all those who make donations and sent me Shalach Monot for Purim. It was most appreciated.

*Chag Kosher V'Sameach!*

Marlene Serkin

## **Important Announcement sent on March 15, 2020**

**I am writing to you today about a very difficult decision that must be made.**

**Our incredibly interconnected world faces a serious threat of pandemic (novel coronavirus, COVID-19), and many of us may feel legitimately anxious. We have a fundamental religious duty to protect our own health and safety, as well as that of others. This mandate overrides every other positive mitzvah.**

**Based on a best-practice approach developed by the Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America, effective Monday, March 16th, I am taking the following precautionary steps to mitigate health risks in our congregation and in the larger community. I will review and update this policy on a regular basis, as the situation continues to evolve.**

**I am suspending all in-person Shul activities including all weekday minyanim, educational classes, and meetings until further notice. It is recommended that you daven in your homes at standard Shul davening times, so we know that our prayers will take place at the same time as the rest of our community, even if not in the same place. Read the Torah reading from a printed Chumash in keeping with the regular cycle.**

**Therefore, the call sent out last week for assistance in making a minyan for my father's Yahrtzeit is hereby rescinded.**

**The Tuesday night Talmud class will not be held until further notice.**

**The Board Meeting scheduled for this Thursday, March 19 is cancelled.**

**The Pre-Pesach workshop scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 is cancelled.**

**A decision regarding Shabbat morning services will be made later in the week and you will be notified on Thursday or Friday. Even if we have services, the Kiddush after services will be cancelled.**

**In the event of a funeral, God forbid, we may ask, depending on the circumstances at the time, that attendance be restricted to a small group of family members and a minyan. Shiva visits should be conducted by telephone or video calls.**

**The Beth David Mikvah will remain open. Women under quarantine or ordered to be placed in isolation or who are experiencing symptoms of acute infectious illness (e.g., cold, flu, stomach bug) may not use the Mikvah.**

**I recognize that these measures are drastic and difficult. Nonetheless, I am confident that as a community we can work together and have a role in taking positive steps to stem the inroads this disease is making in our county. We are grateful to you for the sacrifices you are making to assure the success of this undertaking.**

**We pray that God, the faithful healer, heal all those who are ill and that we be protected from any further harm.**

**Rabbi Zev Silber**

## Pesach Schedule

### Erev Pesach

Tuesday, April 7	Mincha/Maariv <i>Bedikat Chametz</i> – Search for the Chametz	after	7:20pm 8:18 pm
Wednesday, April 8	Shacharit <i>Siyum</i>	approximately	7:00 am 7:30 am
	Latest time for eating <i>chametz</i>		10:55 am
	Latest time for burning <i>chametz</i>		12:00 noon

### Pesach

Wednesday, April 8	Candle lighting		7:19 pm
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:20 pm
	<i>Kiddush</i> at seder	after	8:20 pm
Thursday, April 9	Shacharit		9:00 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:25pm
	Candle Lighting and <i>Kiddush</i> at seder	after	8:21pm
Friday, April 10	Shacharit		9:00 am

### Shabbat Chol Hamoed

Friday, April 10	Candlelighting		7:21 pm
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:15 pm
Shabbat, April 11	Shacharit		9: 00 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:10 pm
	Shabbat ends		8:23 pm

### Chol Hamoed

Sunday, April 12	Shacharit		8:30 am
Mon-Tues, April 13-14	Shacharit		6:50 am
Sun-Mon, April 12-13	mincha/ma'ariv		7:25 pm

### Last Days Pesach

Tuesday, April 14	Candle lighting		7:36 pm
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 15	Shacharit		9:00 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:30 pm
	Candle lighting	after	8:27 pm
Thursday, April 16	Shacharit		9:00 am
	Yizkor	approximately	10:45 am
	Mincha/Ma'ariv		7:30 pm
	Yom Tov ends		8:28 pm

## Pesach Customs and Practices

**When:** Pesach begins on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at night, and lasts through the day of Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Prohibition of Chametz:** It is not only forbidden to eat *chametz* on Pesach, it is also forbidden to have *chametz* in our possession or in our sight. Therefore, a thorough **cleaning** of all places where chametz may be found is required by the night of Tuesday, April 7. What is required is to clean all places where *chametz* may be found, used or stored in our homes, basement, pantries, offices, cars, purses and book bags. Don't forget your talit bag! Spring cleaning of rooms and areas that never have *chametz* there is not necessary. *Chametz* products that we are not consuming or throwing away before Pesach should be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Dishes and utensils used for *chametz* should also be stored separately in order to avoid the mistaken use of these during Pesach.

**Kitchen Preparation:** We only use Pesach dishes, utensils and cookware on Pesach. The kitchen counters and appliances must be made Kosher for Pesach before any food for Passover is prepared in or on them. The **kashering** process differs for each appliance or utensil, and some may not be koshered at all. Please consult a reliable source for the laws and method of koshering, and do not hesitate to ask the rabbi for assistance. Many of the major supervising agencies have kashering guides on their web sites. Kashering must be completed before you burn the *chametz*.

**Shopping:** Buy only products with a Kosher for Passover label from a reliable supervisory organization. The primary reliable agencies are the OU, the Star-K, the Chof-K, the OK, and KAJ. Many other supervisory agencies are also acceptable, but consult the rabbi before purchasing a product with a kashrut symbol that you do not know if it is acceptable. Many products can be used on Pesach without a special marking, and most of the kashrut agencies have lists of these on their web sites. When in doubt, please ask the rabbi for assistance.

**Mechirat Chametz - Selling of the Chametz:** The *chametz* that we have not consumed or disposed of before Pesach may not remain in our possession during the holiday. In order to avoid undue hardship or a large economic loss, arrangements can be made to sell the *chametz* to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. As indicated above, all *chametz* remaining in your home must be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Non-Pesach utensils can be stored separately since we do not need to sell these. In order to execute a legally and halachically binding sale, you must complete the authorization form found in this *ChaiLine* and submit it by 10:00 am on Wednesday, April 8. It is preferable to do this in person, but forms submitted to the office or by mail or by e-mail are also acceptable.

**Bedikat Chametz – Search for Chametz:** We check the house and search for any *chametz* that we may not have found during our cleaning after nightfall on Tuesday, April 7. It is customary to place 10 pieces of *chametz* around the house prior to the search to make sure that our search is complete. Any *chametz* that we find during our search should be stored or disposed, except for that which we plan to burn the next morning. Before beginning the search we recite a blessing, and following the search we recite a statement of nullification for any *chametz* that we may not have found. The blessing and nullification can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

**Ta'anit Bechorim- Fast of the First Born:** The fast of First Born is held on Erev Pesach, Wednesday, April 8, to commemorate their deliverance from death during the tenth plague in Egypt. It is customary for the first-born to participate in a meal served in celebration of a *mitzvah*, such as a *Brit Mila* (circumcision) or *siyum* (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud). Those who attend one of these events celebrate with the partaking of refreshments and are then exempt from this fast. A *siyum* will be held at Beth David following *Shacharit* services.

**Bi'ur Chametz – Burning the Chametz:** It is prohibited to eat *chametz* on Erev Pesach, Wednesday, April 8, after 10:55 am. All *chametz* must be removed from our possession and the *chametz* found the night before during the search must be burned by 12:00 noon. A statement of nullification of any *chametz* not found or disposed is recited at the time of burning. The statement can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

**Matzah and food on Erev Pesach:** It is forbidden to eat matzah during the entire day of Erev Pesach in order that we may hunger for the taste of matzah at the Seder. Under some conditions, foods containing matzah meal may be eaten, as well as egg matzah, which we generally do not eat on Pesach. Please consult the rabbi for specifics. After 4:20 pm we may only eat small quantities of fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs or fish.

**Eruv Tavshilin – The Mixing of Cooked Foods:** The Biblical prohibition against labor on the Festivals specifically does not include the preparation or cooking of food. However, food may only be prepared for that day's use. When a *Yom Tov* falls on a Friday our Rabbis ruled that we are allowed to prepare food on the holiday for use on the Sabbath only if the preparation begins before the holiday. This is known as *Eruv Tavshilin*, or the "mixing of cooked foods", and is performed this year on Erev Pesach. With a *matzah* and any cooked food in hand (such as fish or a hard boiled egg), we recite a blessing and declaration as is found in a siddur or Haggadah.

**Seder Preparation:** The special foods for the Seder plate for both *Sedarim* should be prepared during the day of Erev Pesach. The *Kiddush* at the Seder may not be recited until after nightfall on either night. The *afikoman* should be eaten before 1:05 AM. Some people have the custom of beginning *sefirat ha'omer* – the counting of the omer – at the second Seder instead of counting during the evening service.

**After Pesach:** *Chametz* that was owned by a Jew during Pesach may not be consumed, even after Pesach. The *chametz* that you arranged to have been sold before Pesach will be returned to your possession at approximately 9:30 pm on Thursday, April 16. Many of the local supermarkets are not owned by Jews and kosher *chametz* products may be purchased immediately following Pesach. Price Chopper is Jewish owned and arranged for its *chametz* to be sold to a non-Jew through the Albany Vaad Hakashrut. Weis Markets is Jewish owned and the *chametz* in all the local stores was sold by me, while the stores in other areas have been arranged with other rabbis. The *chametz* at the local JCC, Hillel Academy and our synagogue was sold by me.

This information is accurate as of time of publication. If there are any changes which will affect the ability to purchase or consume *chametz* from or at any of these businesses, I will inform the congregation by e-mail. *If you do not receive e-mail updates from the synagogue, please send a request to [rabbisilber@stny.rr.com](mailto:rabbisilber@stny.rr.com) to be added to our distribution list.*

## Shul Dinner Cancellation

In our efforts to comply with state and federal guidelines regarding the Corona-virus, we are regrettably canceling our Shul Dinner, which would have been held on May 6th. The worthy recipient of the Jack & Mary Ferber Memorial Award was to be Charlie Manasse. "Worthy" is the correct adjective to describe Charlie because of all he does for the Shul, the Federation and for the Jewish Community at large. It's disappointing that there will be no dinner this year, but we must do our part in reducing the risk of infection. May we all be well; we'll honor Charlie next year, when this world-wide scourge is merely a memory.

## SISTERHOOD

Once again, Lori Tuberman organized the baking of hundreds of hamantashen in a variety of flavors for us to enjoy on Purim and at the Shushan Purim Sisterhood meeting. There were even enough for us to continue our enjoyment at the monthly synagogue luncheon. Our thanks to Lori and bakers, Susan and Gerry Hubal, Harold Kohn, Julie Piaker, and Marie Werner.

Though not technically a Sisterhood project, we also want to thank Saba Wiesner and her crew for preparing the wonderful Purim Seudah which so many of us enjoyed. Helpers included Marilyn Bell, Susan Hubal, Toby Kohn, Judy Silber and Cathy Velenchik. Apologies to anyone whose name we might have missed.

The March Sisterhood meeting was held on Shushan Purim, Wednesday, March 11. Rivka Kellman provided us with some fascinating insights into the Purim story which both answered and raised many questions. We will never listen to the Megillah again in quite the same way.

As an ongoing project, we are considering ways to protect our Sisterhood and synagogue history from loss. Plans are being considered to consolidate such items in the shul office in a physical location and electronically. Please start thinking about what items you may have which should be preserved, and provide us with any suggestions you may have as to how we may best do this.,

Remember: WE ARE the SHUL. Without volunteers our Sisterhood and our Synagogue cannot continue. Thank you to all who help in whatever way they are able.

May we all stay healthy and have a wonderful Passover.

Cathy Velenchik, co-president

### Beth David Synagogue Meetings and Events: 2020

Following is a list of Beth David Synagogue meetings and events for 2020. These dates have been confirmed on the Federation Community Calendar. However, they may be subject to change.

Minyan times can be found in the *ChaiLine* and in the *Reporter*.

Our Synagogue needs our support. Please make every effort to attend these meetings and events. Beth David needs you.

#### **Shabbat Luncheons (12:00 noon)**

May 9

June 13

#### **Events**

Monday, April 27 – **Yom Haatzmaut Program** – 7:45 pm

Thursday night, May, 28 – **Shavuot Dinner** – 9:00 pm

Saturday, May 30 – **Sisterhood Shavuot Luncheon** – 12:00 noon

#### **Board Meetings – Thursdays**

April 23 – **Annual Congregational Meeting** – 6:00 pm

May 21 – 7:00 pm

June 18 – 7:15 pm

#### **Sisterhood Meetings – Wednesday, unless otherwise noted**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 7:00 pm – Donor meeting – Private Home**

**June 10, 2020 – 7:00 pm – Closing Meeting**

## APRIL—MAY MINYAN TIMES

### MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday-Friday	7:00 am
<i>Except March 26: April 24:</i>	<i>6:50 am</i>
<i>Except May 25</i>	<i>8:30 am</i>
Except April 9,10,15,16:	9:00 am
<b>SHABBAT</b>	9:00 am
Shabbat Mincha	<i>after Kiddush when possible</i>

### EVENINGS (times vary)

*Friday and Shabbat-by Request only*

Sunday—Thursday, March 22-26	7:05 pm
Sunday-Thursday, Mar 29-Apr 2	7:10 pm
Sunday-Tuesday, April 5-7	7:20 pm
Sunday-Thursday, April 7-11	7:20 pm
Wed-Thur, Apr 8-16	<i>see Pesdach Schedule</i>
Sunday-Thursday Apr 19-23	7:35 pm
Sunday-Thursday, Apr 26-30	7:45 pm
Sunday-Thursday, May 3-7	7:50 pm
Sunday-Thursday, May 10-14	8:00 pm
Sunday-Thursday, May 17-21	8:05 pm
Sunday-Wednesday, May 24-27	8:120 pm

*Maariv— by request only*

## **Mitzvah Fund**

**Tova Kohn, 754-4297 or [tova.kohn844@gmail.com](mailto:tova.kohn844@gmail.com)**

**Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:**

**Mazal Tov to:**

Saba Wiesner for the beautiful and delicious Seudah she prepared for Purim

**Refuah Shelemah to:**

Erin Maxfield for her broken foot

## **Give Double Chai to the ChaiLine**

Purim is past and we all want to thank Saba Wiesner and her crew for the wonderful Purim Seudah. Saba is a great cook and her special touches on whatever she undertakes always are enjoyed by all. We also extend thanks to Lori Tuberman and her crew for the delicious Purim hamantashen. Lori has been in charge of the homemade hamantashen for many years and has never disappointed us.

Pesach will soon be upon us and we are all asked to dig a little deeper and make donations so that the less fortunate can celebrate the holiday in a proper manner. The members of Beth David have always been very generous and you can be sure that the recipients of these donations appreciate it very much.

We are always looking for sponsors so that the *ChaiLine* is self-supporting. Sponsorship is \$36.00 per issue, **Special Sponsorship is \$180.00**. A thank-you note is \$18.00. By sending your check (made out to Beth David Synagogue with *ChaiLine* written on the memo line, and a note telling us what you would like to say) to the Shul before the next deadline (6/28/20) you will be included in the Shavuot issue.

From my house to yours, a happy and kosher Pesach.

Marlene Serkin

## Contributions

### General Fund from:

Michael and Wendy Wolff: In honor of Steven Englund

Brendan Byrnes & Hollie Levine: In honor of Arie Ullmann and in memory of Jeremy Ullmann

Robert and Nancy Basmann: In honor of Dr. Charles Rubin

Maxine and Louis Rosenberg: In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Marilyn Bell's grandson, Gavriel

Maxine and Louis Rosenberg: in honor of the birth of Toby and Harold Kohn's grandson, Isaac

### Shul Beautiful to:

Rabbi Zev Silber wishing him a Refuah Shelema after his cataract surgery, from Brian & Lori Tuberman

## Maot Chitim – Passover Charity

We all know how expensive it is to purchase all our Pesach foods and needs. We cannot forget that we have an obligation to help those less economically able to do their own purchases and enjoy the Seder and the holiday. This special charity to provide for Jewish poor the ability to purchase Pesach provisions is called Maot Chitim.

Beth David and Jewish Family Service are working together to provide for the needs of local poor and the poor in Israel. In order to assure that the money is available to enable the poor to shop before Pesach, we ask that you send your check no later than Monday, March 30. Checks may be made payable to Beth David Synagogue Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or to Jewish Family Service, noting that it is for Passover Charity and if you wish to designate your gift to local or Israeli poor.

### 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](mailto: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.

# Authorization to sell *Chametz*

The undersigned hereby authorizes, empowers and directs Rabbi Zev Silber, or any other person authorized or empowered by him, to act in my place and stead and on my behalf to sell all *chametz* possessed by me, whether knowingly or unknowingly, whether presently in my possession or in anyone else's possession. Such *chametz*, as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic law shall include actual *chametz*, mixtures of *chametz*, and *chametz* that has adhered to or become absorbed into the surfaces of pots, pans and other utensils. This general authorization shall apply to any *chametz* owned by me or in my possession wherever so located, including, but not limited to, that *chametz* situated at:

\_\_\_\_\_

(address of house, store, office, etc.)

and located in the following places:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Specify place(s) where *chametz* is being stored  
e.g. sealed kitchen cupboards)

The undersigned hereby further empowers Rabbi Zev Silber to lease all places upon which such *chametz* is situated and to lease or sell on my behalf any and all pots, pans, and utensils which contain *chametz*.

Rabbi Zev Silber is hereby authorized and directed by me to enter into any other type of transaction on my behalf with respect to such *chametz* on any such terms and for such period of time as he deems fit. I hereby confirm the validity of such transactions as if same were entered into by me directly.

If this document is being signed by more than one person, all necessary changes to the language of this authorization shall be deemed to have been made.

I hereby affix my signature this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 (5780)

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Kindly complete this form and return it in person or mail to:*

**Rabbi Zev Silber, Beth David Synagogue  
39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905**

Please allow 1 hour after the end of Passover before eating any *chametz* that was sold or before using any of your *chametz* utensils.

All forms must be received **by** 10:00 AM **Wednesday, April 8, 2020**