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CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

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Shavuot, 2020-5780, June-July 2020

FROM THE RABBI

With only 2 weeks left before Shavuot, it seems that barring a miraculous turn of events with the pandemic that is plaguing the nation, state and the local community, the shul will still remain closed for the second of the pilgrimage holidays in a row.

Even with no services in shul, it still behooves us to pray at home and celebrate the holiday in a way that replicates how it is celebrated in a normal year. By doing this, we demonstrate that we believe in God and in His ability to save us from all danger, and that we remain devoted to Him under any and all circumstances.

The main theme of Shavuot is that it commemorates revelation on Mount Sinai and that God gave the Jewish people, us, the Torah on this day. An ancient custom is that people would remain awake the entire first night of Shavuot studying Torah, expressing our gratitude for this precious gift and our eagerness to study and observe His words and His mitzvot.

Although staying up all night studying may be difficult for many of us, we can certainly devote a serious amount of time during the holiday to this practice, especially as we are confined to our homes this year.

As a reminder, we also have a practice to recite Yizkor on the second of Shavuot.

Since the conclusion of Pesach I have been sending weekly Shabbat updates and holding several Zoom classes. My weekly Torah portion class on Fridays will, of course, not be held on Friday, May 29 since it is Yom Tov. But I will conduct a class on Erev Shavuot, Thursday, May 28, at which I will discuss Shavuot and also have a virtual ZOOM Yizkor service, since Yizkor does not require a minyan. I suggest that you also recite Yizkor on Shabbat during its regular place in the morning service.

Information regarding the time of this Yizkor service will be included in my weekly e-mail Shabbat update. If you are not receiving these updates, please send an e-mail to rabbisilber@stny.rr.com requesting that you be added to the distribution list.

The update prior to Shavuot will include the text of the Yizkor service and suggestions of materials available for the purpose of Torah study during the holiday.

With wishes that you all remain healthy and well ----

Chag Sameach!

Rabbi Zev Silber

From The President

Dear Beth David members,

I sincerely hope that you are all well and keeping safe.

I am certain that I am not alone in feeling that I really miss everyone and I miss being in our Shul. Shabbos morning is most difficult without services and no Kiddush to just talk and hang out a little.

We have missed out on holidays and our wonderful yearly Dinner. It is a sad time in our lives and a time that we all have to endure the best that we can.

I want to thank the rabbi for the weekly Zoom classes and a thank you to Moshe for the many beautiful songs and also reading the weekly parshah and emailing it to us.

We pray that soon in the near future things will return to some normalcy and we will again be together.

I want to share with you an uplifting situation. Very recently I asked our congregation to kindly donate to our community food bank and to my surprise it was an overwhelming response! We collected over \$5,400.00 from Beth David! I had originally hoped to get \$500.00. Mary Jane Bray who is an official with The Food Bank of the Southern Tier could hardly believe that we were able to make such an enormous donation.

I have reached out to Temple Israel and to Temple Concord to see if they would also like to be part of a Jewish Community Donation to the very needy people and especially hungry children in this area. Of course I realize that we all individually give to these organizations but it would be especially meaningful if they would join us in this endeavor.

Thank you so much to our members for being so generous! Please take good care of yourselves and I sincerely hope to see you in the near future.

Saba Wiesner, President

May-July Minyan Times

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday 8:30 am

Monday—Friday 7:00 am

Except June 22,23 6:50 am

Except May 25; July 3 8:30 am

Except May 29 9:00 am

Shabbat 9:00 am

Shabbat Mincha *after Kiddush when possible*
Maariv-by request only

EVENINGS (Times vary)

Friday and Shabbat—by Request only

Sunday— Wednesday, May 24-27 8:10 pm

Thur.-Shabbat, May28-30 *See Shavuot Schedule*

Sunday-Thursday, May 31-June 4 8:20 pm

Sunday-Thursday, June 7-11 8:20 pm

Sunday—Thursday, June 14-18 8:25 pm

Sunday —Thursday, June 21-25 8:30 pm

Sunday—Thursday, June 28-July 2 8:30 pm

Sunday—Wednesday, July 5-8 8:25 pm

Thursday, July 9 8:10 pm

Sunday-Thursday, July 12-16 8:20 pm

Shavuot Customs and Practices

When: Shavuot begins on Thursday, May 28th at night, and lasts through the day of Shabbat, May 30th.

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 Thursday, May 28, Erev Shavuot.

With a challah 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.

Candle Lighting: As with every Yom Tov, we light candles each night of the holiday, reciting the 2 brachot – one for the holiday (*I'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov*) and the *Shehecheyanu*. *Shehecheyanu* is also recited at the end of Kiddush. Since the second night of Shavuot is also Shabbat, the first b'racha recited is *I'hadlik ner shel Shabbat v'shel Yom Tov* followed by *Shehecheyanu*. Kiddush on the second night begins with *Vayechulu*, continues with the holiday kiddush, adding the parts for Shabbat, and concludes with *Shehecheyanu*.

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. ***As of this writing, we do not yet know if social distancing requirements will still be in effect. If they have been lifted, I will advise you by e-mail if there will be any Torah study sessions at the shul or at my home. If we cannot gather together for Torah study, it is certainly proper and praiseworthy for each person to spend at least some of the first night of Shavuot in Torah study, either individually or with your immediate family. Suggested study texts and ideas will be distributed by e-mail prior to the holiday.***

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. ***It is permissible to read Megillat Rut at home, even without a minyan.***

Yizkor: Yizkor is recited on the second day of Shavuot after the Torah reading. ***It is permissible to recite Yizkor at home without a minyan, and more information will be distributed prior to Shavuot if services will not be held at the shul.***

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. ***The luncheon will certainly not be held if we cannot gather for services. If we will have services, you will be advised whether or not there will be a luncheon.***

Shavuot Schedule

Thursday, May 28	Candle lighting	8:12 pm
	<i>Blessing: L'hadlik ner shel Shabbat</i>	
	Mincha/Maariv	8:15 pm
Friday, May 29	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Candle Lighting	before 8:13 pm
	<i>Blessing: L'hadlik ner shel Shabbat v'shel Yom Tov and Shehecheyanu</i>	
	Mincha/Maariv	7:15 pm
Shabbat, May 30	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Yizkor	approximately 10:50 am
	<i>Sisterhood luncheon</i>	
	Mincha/Ma'ariv	8:00 pm
	Shabbat and Yom Tov ends	9:14 pm

Give Double *Chai* To The *ChaiLine*

We are living through a very different time than any of us have ever seen before. I wish that you all are well and able to stay that way. Having the shul closed is so strange. I miss not being able to attend services.

Shavuot is right around the corner and we don't know if we will be able to open the shul for the holiday. We will print the schedule as if it were a normal time and hope for the best.

Thanks to those of you who sponsor our *ChaiLine*. Your \$36.00 per issue keeps us going. I apologize to Rika & Steven Katz and Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy who sponsored the Pesach issue. Their names were inadvertently omitted from that issue.

I wish you all good health and *Chag Sameach*.

Marlene Serkin

SISTERHOOD

We hope that you, your family, and your friends have remained healthy (and sane) during these difficult months.

We extend our **condolences** to any of you who may have lost loved ones or friends.

It has been nearly 3 months since we last saw each other at the Purim Seudah or the March Shabbos luncheon.

Since then, we have been deprived of the opportunity in April to celebrate Passover together, and in May, of enjoying Sisterhood's Donor meeting which is one of our primary sources of income. We thank all of you who sent in donor checks (some of which were very generous.)

We would like to welcome our newest member, Deborah Mindick. We would usually do this at a meeting, but since there has been no meeting I am doing it this way. Glad to have you join us, Deborah.

Also canceled was the InterSisterhood meeting scheduled to be held at Temple Israel.

Being optimistic, we have not yet (as I write this) canceled our closing meeting scheduled for **June 10**. We are also planning our meeting schedule for 2020-21.

We wish you a **Happy Shavuot** and hope that with Hashem's blessing we will soon be able to greet each other in person.

May we all stay safe and healthy.

Cathy Velenchik, Sisterhood co-President

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The ChaiLine is looking for a volunteer to write the Beth David Family column. Please consider offering your time to provide our ChaiLine with one of it's most popular columns.

Please call or email Marlene Serkin if you are interested.

mserkin@stny.rr.com

607-729-3235

Beth David Family

Rita & Larry Bleier spent the weekend of March 7th in Raleigh, NC, attending the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Devin, the son of Seth and Maria Bleier. Bethany and Josh Strulewitz and their children and Scott Bleier also attended this family reunion.

Mazel Tov to Charney & Pincus Oppenheim on the birth of a great granddaughter, Elisheva Mandel.

With the birth of girl, Tamar Devorah, Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz became first time great-grandparents. Tamar's parents are Sara and Chezky Tuchman of Brooklyn and her Grandparents are Leslie and Michael Tuchman of NYC and Iris and David Farhy of Detroit.

Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim welcomed the arrival of a granddaughter, Channah Shemtov, daughter of Chaya Mushka and Mendel Shemtov. The Shemtovs live in Brooklyn, and, along with Rivky's parents, Rabbi & Mrs. Sternberg, were here in Vestal for the birth and the holiday.

Mazel Tov Rabbi Shmaryahu on the birth of his 12th grandchild, a girl, born to Yonah & Shoal Bensousan, in Israel.

Rachel Sommer & Avi Nadel announce the engagement of their daughter Dassy (Hadassah) Sommer to Har-el Davidi. Dassy is the granddaughter of Lillian Sommer. Lillian is with the Nadels in Israel.

Ruth & Ed Sacher, of Cote St. Luc, Quebec, Canada, joyfully want to share with their Beth David friends, the birth of a great-granddaughter, on Shabbos May 16, in Israel. Amichai & Ester Sacher are the parents of the baby and Ari & Tova Sacher are the grandparents.

Susan & Michael Wright and Kerry Wright enjoyed three weeks of Florida sunshine at the home of Susan's mother, Trudy Greenspan, in Boynton Beach. With concerns about covid-19 beginning to swell, they cancelled their return flight north, and the four of them drove to Binghamton in a rental car.

Condolences to Harry Wiesel on the loss of his father.
Condolences to the Morell family on the passing of Shmuel Morell.

Thanks To Our Sponsors

Marcy & Gabi Yonaty in memory of **Toni Began**

Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy In memory of friends and relatives who have been lost by members and friends of Beth David Synagogue during these trying times.

Merri Pell & Tony Preus wishing a *Chag Sameach* to all



Mitzvah Fund

Tova Kohn, 754-4297 or tova.kohn844@gmail.com

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu on the birth of his 12th grandchild, a granddaughter

Saba Wiesner to thank her for the beautiful Purim Seudah

Rabbi Aaron & Mrs. Rivky Slonim on the birth of their granddaughter, Chana

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the birth of their great granddaughter

Cherise & Andre Rosales on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zev

Saba & Michal Wiesner on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Zev Rosales

Rabbi Debra Orenstein with thanks for your insights and awesome programming

Rabbi Silber with thanks and appreciation for your Parasha Zoom classes

Refuah Shelemah to:

Michael Alweis, Covid-19

Marlene Serkin, Broken rib

Jeanne Goldman, Broken wrist.

Condolences to;

Harry Wiesel on the passing of his beloved father

Rabbi Zalman Chein on the passing of his beloved father, Rabbi Mordechai Lev ben Chaim
Dov Ber Chein

Marion Morell on the passing of her beloved husband, Shmuel

Sima Morell Kelner on the passing of her beloved father, Shmuel

Debra Mindick, on the passing of her beloved husband, Joseph

David Channin on the passing of his beloved mother, Esther

Elana Gordon on the passing of her beloved husband, Earl



Beth David Family Graduates

Mazel Tov to our graduates. We wish you success and happiness in your lives.

Eileen & Dan Miller's sons:

Brian Miller, Syracuse University, Bachelors of Music in Music Education

Alex Miller, SUNY Purchase, Masters of Music in Jazz Performance

Isaac Karp, son of Gina Glasman & Jonathan Karp, is the Valedictorian of Binghamton High School

Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber's granddaughters:

Graduating from Stern College: Leora Feder and Yael Feder

Michal Feder graduating from Maayanot High School in Teaneck

Daughters of Sarah and Bruce Feder of Teaneck. Mazal tov to them and sister Arielle.

Susan & Gerry Hubal's grandson:

Jaren Hubal, son of Robert and Elaine Hubal, graduated from the University of Michigan.

Miriam & Aaron Alweis' daughter:

Elisa, graduating from Lehman College with a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology

Barbara & Les Bank's daughter:

Michelle McIlroy (Bank). Master of Science in Hospitality Management from Johnson and Wales University

Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz's grandchildren:

Estie Tuchman Turkel -- MSW from LIU

Sara Farhy Tuchman -- Touro College School of Nursing

Tehilla Tuchman -- Bais Yaakov Academy HS

Ashi Sommer -- eighth grade from YBH Passaic

Toby Tuchman -- eighth grade from Bais Yaakov of the LES

Malka Lazarus -- eighth grade from YBH Passaic

Thank You

Thank you for your thoughtful messages of condolence on the passing of my father. These months of *shiva* and *shloshim* have been difficult and your kind words have been greatly appreciated.
Harry Wiesel

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Thank you to everyone who sent me a Purim Basket. I enjoyed every morsel.
Ruth Goldstein

Contributions

General Fund:

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Zev Rosales, grandson of Michael & Saba Wiesner from:
Maxine & Louis Rosenberg Marilyn Bell Alan & Julie Piaker

In memory of Shmuel Morell and the father of Rabbi Zalman Chain from:
Sheldon Edison

In memory of Pam Lavker from:
Michael & Saba Wiesner

From:

Dr. Barry & Annette Shaw

Alan & Julie Piaker

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Ruth Goldstein

Sisterhood Fund from:

Rita Shawn

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 may 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 Thursday, July 9, and continue through 9 Av, which occurs on Thursday, July 30.

The fast of 17 Tammuz: This day is observed as a fast day, with the fast beginning in the morning at 3:46 am and ending at nightfall, at 9:23 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.