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CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

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Chanukah, December 2020/5781

FROM THE RABBI

Our Talmud class is studying the laws of the Shema and we learned that the rabbis instituted that the first blessing before the Shema in the morning is *Yotzer Or*, praising God for creating light and day. They also state that we must include the attribute of God creating light in the blessing recited at night.

Perhaps the reason for this is to teach us that even though night symbolizes darkness, uncertainty, troubling events and sadness, we must always remember that light will follow. Those sad and troubling times can and will be followed by light, relief from danger and a better life.

Chanukah is also called *Chag Ha'urim* – the festival of light. After the darkness of the Greek-Syrian rule which forbade the Jews from living a Jewish life and contaminated the Holy Temple with idols, the revolt of the Maccabees and the miraculous victory in their war, and the great miracle of the oil in the rededication of the purified Temple, Jewish sovereignty and the freedom to practice our religion was restored.

Jewish History is sadly full of periods of darkness, and through God's promise and human action they have always been followed with great moments of life. Consider that the horrors of the Shoah were followed with the recreation of the State of Israel.

Sadly, we are now in a period of darkness that envelops the Jewish people and the entire world. No nation, no continent, no group of people is immune from the horrors of the corona virus. Death and illness, very dark and frightening moments, leads so many of us to shelter in place, avoid interaction with others, not seeing our families and loved ones and not being able to celebrate our holy days with them. This condition has been in effect for almost every holiday in the Jewish calendar.

As we approach the holiday of light, we are also fortunate to glimpse some light at the end of the tunnel, with the news of potential vaccines that may eliminate this dreadful disease. God, in his miraculous ways, has given wisdom to our scientists to find a way to defeat this virus.

With God's help, they will be successful. The lights of Chanukah will usher in a new time that will see us freed from the darkness of COVID-19. Please God we will be allowed to reopen our synagogue for prayer and activities without the fear of contracting this dreaded illness.

Until then, we will continue to pray for the recovery of those afflicted with this disease, pray and act in a way that provides us with safety, and ask God to watch over us and protect us, our families, our community and the entire world.

I wish you a Chanukkah *Sameach!*

Rabbi Zev Silber

From The President

Isn't it difficult to truly enjoy Shabbos without being able to attend services?

During this Covid nightmare it has been many weeks of longing to have that experience again on Saturday morning. I am constantly checking the infection rate on a weekly basis and hoping to hear that we are low enough to open our doors but so far we just wait patiently and hope.

Although our Shul is empty the work inside and out certainly continues. Last week we completed the second phase of roof repair. The many leaks that are on the roof have caused damage to the ceilings inside, hopefully we have taken care of this ongoing problem.

There also have been issues with our aging furnaces which caused the heat to go out twice in two weeks. A number of parts needed replacement and with that work completed all seems well at this time.

On a happier note, Moshe Shmaryahu, our Cantor, was honored by Hillel Academy with the A M Pierson Award. It is with great pride that we wish him Mazel Tov on this prestigious award and our best wishes to continue his work with the children at Hillel Academy.

My thanks to Rabbi Silber for the weekly Zoom classes and also for keeping us up to date with community happenings. The classes have been excellent. I encourage you to take part.

Happy Chanukah to our congregation! Please stay well and safe from this virus so that soon we can again be together in our beautiful Shul.

Saba Wiesner, President

ZOOM CLASSES WITH RABBI SILBER

REGULAR WEEKLY CLASSES

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 PM
TALMUD CLASS

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT 1:00 PM
STUDIES IN THE WEEKLY TORAH READING

Zoom meeting ID and password are distributed in the Weekly update

FOR CHANUKAH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 - SISTERHOOD AND
SHUL PRE-CHANUKKAH PROGRAM - 7:00 PM

Chanukah Customs and Practices

When: Chanukkah begins on Thursday, December 10th at night. The last candle is lit on Thursday night, December 17th and the holiday ends at nightfall on Friday, December 18th.

Work is permitted on Chanukkah (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 Chanukkah, there is a custom to partake of latkes and jelly donuts. Children have a custom to play dreidel and other games related to Chanukkah.

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 Chanukkah we read from 2 Torah scrolls and a special Haftarah for Chanukkah. Wednesday, December 16 is also 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 Chanukkah: On Friday night, December 11th we light 2 candles (plus the shamash). Chanukkah 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 12th we must light **after** Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:14 PM. It is customary to recite *havdalah* at home before lighting the Chanukkah candles.

Travelers: If you are on the road, you are still required to light Chanukkah 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 16; January 14; February 12:

6:50 am

Except December 25; January 1:8:30 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, December 6, 13 4:15 pm

Sunday, December 20 4:20 pm

Sunday, December 27 4:20 pm

Sunday, January 3 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 10 4:35 pm

Sunday, January 17 4:45 pm

Sunday, January 24 4:55 pm

Sunday, January 31 5:00 pm

Sunday, February 7 5:10 pm

Sunday, February 14 5:20 pm

Sunday, February 21 5:30 pm

EVENINGS (times constant)

7:00 pm

Mondays – Thursdays

CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund from:

Marilyn Bell in honor of the birth of Marlene Serkin's great grandson

Maxine Kaplan in honor of Rabbi Silber

Jonathan Karp in memory of his mother

Suzanne Krause in honor of Paula & Charles Rubin

Suzanne Krause in honor of Stacey & Eliezer Silber

Stephen & Maria Yonaty in honor of his parents, Marcy & Gabi Yonaty

David & Virginia Eisenberg Fund

Eva & Milton Braslow Foundation

Ilene Goldman Scholarship Fund

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Dr. Thomas Theise

Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy

Leonard & Valerie Preston

Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

Riki Waldman & Ezra Goldmeer

In Memory of Marie Werner

Joanne Fahrenz Helena Garan Martha Klionsky Pam Major

Merri Pell-Preus Rita Shawn Francine Stein Elaine Rapaport

Stacey & Michael Greenberg Robert & Barbara Ruchames

In Memory of Marvin Kaplan

M/M Michael Agius

Marilyn Bell

Sarah Burdman

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz in memory of Marie Werner

Richard & Eileen Orringer in memory of Marie Werner

Ilene Goldman Scholarship Fund

Jewish Community Foundation of Hartford

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is having a Zoom pre-Chanukah Party.

Good news! After reading through the responses we got from our request for feedback on zoom programs, we decided that Chanukah was the perfect time to give it a try. Many thanks to those who responded.

We are all craving a little socialization at this time of year, so why not join with your friends at sisterhood and enjoy some entertainment courtesy of Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu and the students at Hillel Academy?

We will meet virtually on Wednesday December 9, 2020 at 7 pm.

Use the zoom link below: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86709576682?pwd=QIBVck5QTS9aREVmeGIZdnVsR0JEZz09>

Passcode: BD2020

OR

By Phone Dial: 1.929.205.6099 US Meeting ID: 867 0957 6682 Passcode: 610531

Our thanks to Rabbi Zev Silber for volunteering to be our zoom master, and to Rabbi David Serkin for preparing our flyer.

We know Chanukah doesn't officially start until the following night, but this will be a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit.

We plan to give everyone time to socialize and catch up with each other, but regrettably you will have to provide your own refreshments.

Happy Chanukah and may 2021 be a better year for all of us.

Cathy Velenchik, sisterhood co- president

Give double *Chai* to the *ChaiLine*

I hope all are well. We all hope a Covid-19 vaccine is available soon.

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 Beth David 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. Unfortunately, we have not held services in the building since the High Holidays because of the pandemic.

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 (with a note of what the donation is for) before the next deadline (2-14-21) will be most appreciated.

Happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin

Thanks to Our Sponsors

In memory of **Marie Werner** by **Rika & Steve Katz**

In memory of **Fayla & Mendel Gordon** by **Marcy & Gaby Yonaty**

In honor of **Mark Yonaty's** engagement by **Shelly Goldman Black**

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, keeping us on schedule to finish at the planned time and changing the ark curtains and Torah covers

Our wonderful members who attended service and followed our requirements for social distancing and mask wearing

Marilyn Bell and Julie Piaker for preparing the Yizkor announcements booklet

Toby Kohn 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

Marlene Serkin and Cathy Valenckick for all the shopping for the Yom Tov *kiddushim* (even though they didn't happen since we had to close suddenly on Erev Sukkot!), preparing the candles, and the many behind the scenes jobs they take care of

Cathy Valenckik for providing the Yahrzeit candles, shopping and arranging for people to serve and clean up for the holiday *kiddushim* (even though they didn't happen since we had to close suddenly on Erev Sukkot!)

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 both in shul and for the outdoor service at *Tashlich*

Gaby Yonaty, Charlie Manasse, Bob Kutz, and Chaim Joy for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah and decorating it

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*

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

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, for supplying and serving the refreshments at the board meetings, and guiding the shul through the pandemic

Rabbi David Serkin for keeping the Facebook page timely and informative, for editing and producing the Beth David calendar, for his monthly calendars, flyers for events and numerous other flyers

Rabbi Zev Silber for being our "ZOOM" master and conducting classes and services on line

TODAH RABAH

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Rabbi & Judy Silber on the graduations of their grandchildren
Jon Karp on Isaac's being chosen Valedictorian at Binghamton HS
Gina Glasman on Isaac's being chosen Valedictorian at Binghamton HS
Gabi & Marcy Yonaty on Mark & Inessa's engagement
Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu on the beautiful Tefilot on Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur
Pinchas & Charney Oppenheim on their new great-granddaughter, Tamar
Rabbi Zev Silber on the wonderful High Holiday services
Aaron Alweis on the wonderful High Holiday services
Arieh Ullmann on his birthday
Brendan Byrnes in appreciation for his help in building our succah
Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu on his receiving the A.M.Pierson Award from Hillel Academy
Marlene Serkin on the birth of her new great grandson, Lavi Binyamin

Refuah Shelemah to:

Kerry Wright wishing her speedy recovery from surgery
Scott Rathbone wishing him speedy recovery from surgery
Rhonda Levine wishing her speedy recovery from surgery
Charlie Manasse wishing him speedy recovery from Covid19
Alan Berk wishing him speedy recovery from an accident
Aaron Alweis wishing him speedy recovery from a procedure

Condolences to:

Julie Piaker in memory of her mother, Lucille Janofsky
Ilana Segal in memory of her dear friend, Marie Werner
Michael Werner & Family in memory of their mother, grandmother, Marie Werner
Brian & Lori Tuberman & Family in memory of Brian's stepfather, Marvin Kaplan
Maxine Kaplan in memory of her husband, Marvin
Roz Antoun in memory of her brother

Beth David Family

With Corona holding its grip on the world, most of us added a new word to our everyday vocabulary, "zoom". Although Zoom is overwhelming at times, it also keeps us connected. With its help, Great-grandma Marlene Serkin and Uncle David Serkin virtually attended the brit of baby Lavi Benjamin (Leo) in Modiin Israel. He's the son of Yonit and Yosef (Joe) Serkin and the grandson of Paul Serkin and Judy and Rabbi Robert Golub.

After shofar blowing at the end of Yom Kippur, Elaine and Shai Mandel of Jerusalem received news of the birth of a granddaughter, Tamar. Tikvah and Eliyahu Fox are the proud parents, and Charney and Pinchus Oppenheim are the kvelling Great-grandparents. A few weeks later, the Mandels celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of their son Zecharia.

Rachel and David Rendsberg welcomed a girl, Julia Maya, into their family. Mazal Tov to Grandmother Susan Rendsberg Grosberg and Great-grandmother Claire Ladenheim.

Harold and I are shepping nachas over the birth of a Great-granddaughter, Sara Dubra, to Estie and Yosef Turkel of Lakewood. Grandparents are Leslie and Michael Tuchman of the Lower East Side.

May each of the babies grow to Bat/Bar Mitzvah, and Chuppah, and to 120 in good health.

With masks and social-distancing, many of us were able to meet the new additions to our families. That will have to carry us through until we can once again visit and hug those babies.

Zoom is a perfect vehicle for bringing people together. Long-time Binghamton childhood friends, some of whom had not seen each other in years, recently shared a Zoom chat. Joining in were: Rebecca Rosenberg Osborn (Chicago), Lisha Rubin Levin (Richmond), Deena Shore Zuckerman (Boston), Rachel Sommer Nadel (Israel), Elaine Oppenheim Mandel (Israel), Mia Stillman Taback (Dallas), Sima Morell Kelner (Passaic), Kerry Wright (Binghamton), Leslie Sasnowitz Tuchman (NYC), and Shira Katz Reifman (Israel). Many Beth David NCYS memories were shared that day.

Refuah shelemah to Rhonda Levine.

With great sadness I mention the loss of Marie Werner, a dear friend to all who crossed her path. May her family find comfort among the mourners of *Tzion* and [Yerushalayim](#).

As Chanukah approaches, we can think of the courage and strength that small band of fighters brought forth from within to face an army of great magnitude. With Hashem's help, we too can hang in there a bit longer, and do all we can to keep safe during this pandemic.

Meryl Sasnowitz

If you didn't see news of your family in this column, it's because I didn't know about it. We all want to share your news, so please keep me informed either at msasnowitz@gmail.com or (607) 760-5207