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CHAI LINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

VOLUME LXII, ISSUE 3
Purim 5781/ February 2021

FROM THE RABBI

It has been almost a year! Right after Purim last year I announced the closing of all weekday services, meetings and classes at the shul due to the pandemic. A few days later I suspended all Shabbat services and as we approached Pesach holiday services were cancelled, as well.

We did manage to open for one weekday service and for Shabbat morning services during the summer, but these only lasted through Yom Kippur. A few days later, on Erev Sukkot, we again cancelled all services as the infection rate in our community started to increase dramatically. And we are still closed as we approach Purim.

The last three pilgrimage festivals, Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot, when the entire Jewish people would go to Jerusalem to celebrate in the Holy Temple, have passed with our inability to come and celebrate in our beloved shul. We have not been able to be seen by God in our shul, we have been unable to see each other in shul, and we have unfortunately not seen the shul and be in the presence of God at these most precious times.

With the development of vaccines to protect us from this dreadful disease and the beginning of a vaccination program, which I hope everyone is planning to get for your own protection and the protection of others, we have hopes that the time will come soon that we will be able to return to communal services in shul. Although we are beginning to see a reduction in active cases in Broome County, Binghamton and Vestal, the numbers are still quite high, much higher than they were on Yom Kippur – the last day that the shul was open.

I know that I hope, as do many of you, that this gradual reduction will continue and more of us will be vaccinated and we will be able to reopen. I pray that this may even happen by Pesach, but time will tell. We will continue to follow the best practices to safeguard the health of our congregants and the community.

Meanwhile, even though we will not be able to celebrate Purim physically together, we do have the opportunity to do so virtually. Join us at our Sisterhood Purim party and celebration on Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm, and our Megillah reading on Thursday, February 25 at 6:45 pm, and our morning Megillah reading on Friday, February 26 at 11:00 am. The Zoom links are on the flyers with this ChaiLine.

I hope we see you and you see all of us. See and be seen! Together we will have a ...

Chag Purim Sameach!

Rabbi Zev Silber

From The President

Happy Purim to our Beth David Congregation!

Please remember kindness and donations to those that are less fortunate.

Saba Wiesner

Purim Customs and Practices

When: Purim begins on Thursday, February 25 at night, and lasts through the day of Friday, February 26. The fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, February 25.

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 as the *maftir* during four *shabbatot* from Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Adar II until Pesach. The *Shabbat* before Purim we read **Parshat Zachor – remember** – and this serves of 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*. **Since this year the shul is closed due the pandemic, Rabbi Silber will be reading this short section from a Torah scroll on ZOOM on Friday, February 19 at 1:00 pm in order to give you the opportunity to perform this Mitzvah. The Zoom information is on the attached Purim flyer.**

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 Thursday, February 25. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:22 am and ending at 6:31 pm. It is customary not to eat until after the reading of the Megillah. If you have special circumstances which 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. **Since this year the shul is closed due the pandemic, Rabbi Silber will be reading the Megillah on ZOOM on Thursday night, February 25 at 6:45 pm and Friday morning, February 26 at 11:00 am. There will not be an afternoon reading this year. The Zoom information is on the attached Purim flyer.**

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. Checks for this purpose can be mailed to the shul.

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. Rabbi Silber 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 19**, and gifts for Israeli poor must be made by **February 24**. *If you cannot get your checks to the office by these dates, please contact Rabbi Silber by email or text message with your pledge and he will advance the money for you.*

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). Since Purim occurs on Friday, it is preferable to have this meal during the morning or early afternoon hours, in order to allow time to prepare for Shabbat. The meal should preferably include meat and a little more wine than you usually drink, and conclude no later than 3:00 pm. *This does not replace the regular Shabbat meal that must be eaten after the beginning of Shabbat.*

There will not be a Purim Seudah at the shul this year.

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.

Sisterhood Hosts Purim Celebration

Can it really be Purim again? Was it really a year ago that that this seemingly endless nightmare began?

Still, Purim is a joyous holiday which celebrates changing what would have been a tragic time for the Jews into one which allowed their survival and eventual triumph.

So now, we optimistically look forward to triumphing over all that has threatened our lives and lifestyles during the past year.

In other words **it is Purim. Let's celebrate.** Sisterhood is planning a pre -Purim zoom party which will allow you to see and hear your friends, qvell over some of our local Hillel students, and enjoy a selection of you tube videos which we hope will bring a smile to your faces. So join us **on Wednesday February 24, at 7 pm** by clicking on the link below.

The link will also be available in Rabbi Silber's weekly update, and on the Sisterhood flyer designed by David Serkin.

We hope you will join us for an hour or so of levity.

Cathy Velenchik Sisterhood co- president

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114219098?>

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 19. 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 19 will be sent to Israel. The deadline for contributions to be distributed in Israel is February 24.

Please do not hesitate to text or email Rabbi Silber with a pledge for this purpose if you cannot get to the check to the shul office before these deadlines, and he will advance the funds on your behalf.

Thank You

Thank you to the Beth David Family and members for the notes of condolence sent to me on the passing of my mother.

Harry Wiesel

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Donnovan Lyons on his engagement to Danielle
Thank you to Rabbi Silber for helping facilitate the Sisterhood Chanukah ZOOM.
Thank you to Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu for the beautiful Chanukah play, & for preparing Hillel students in grades 4 & 5.
The students in grades 4 & 5 for their wonderful Chanukah video; it was enjoyed by all who tuned in! Thank you all!
Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus on the birth of their new grandson.
Sy Klionsky on his son, David, becoming engaged.
Michael Wright in honor of his retirement.

Refuah Sheleimah to:

Tehilla Tuchman, daughter of Leslie & Michael Tuchman, on her hand injury & surgery.
Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz wishing speedy recovery to their granddaughter, Tehilla.
Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell
Les Bank
Paula Rubin.
Yaron Kweller speedy recovery from Covid 19

Condolences to:

Family of Marie Werner.
Family of Marion Rudin.
Jonathan Shefftz in memory of Claire Shefftz.
Mary Goldenberg in memory of Claire Shefftz.
Harry Wiesel in memory of his father.
Viktor Shevchenko & Family in memory of his father, Anatoly Shevchenko

FEBRUARY—MARCH MINYAN TIMES

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30 am
Monday – Friday	7:00 am
<i>Except February 26</i>	<i>6:50 am</i>
Shabbat	9:00 am

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

EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday and Shabbat-by request only

Sunday, February 21	5:30 pm
Sunday, February 28	5:40 pm
Sunday, March 7	5:45 pm
Sunday-Thursday, March 14-18	6:55 pm
Sunday-Thursday, March 21-25	7:00 pm

Beth David Family

I previously mentioned Zoom as a new addition to our everyday vocabulary. We also picked up the terms: covid, corona virus, social distancing, masking, and vaccine trials. With folks trying to get on the long waiting lists for the vaccine, I'm told the latest term to hit the streets is Vaccine Envy. You can imagine how taxing it is for people to know there's a vaccine and not being able to get one. We hope that all of us can be vaccinated soon to ease our minds.

Mazal Tov to Merri-Pell Preus and Tony Preus on the birth of their grandson Max Isaac. He's the son of Anna Binstock and Alexander Preus. The delighted grandparents attended the brit via Zoom, and look forward to spending in-person time with the Pittsburg family.

Eliezer Morell, son of Avi and Beth Morell of Monsey, became engaged to Penina Torczyner of West Hempstead. Mazal Tov to the extended Morell family, including Sima and Russell Kelner and Varda and Eitan Morell. The Groner family announced the engagement of Ariel, the son of Tamar and Eli Groner, to Tamar Sternthal. Ariel is a fighter pilot in the IDF. Grandparents Debbie and Raphael Groner are thrilled to enter this new phase of life, married grandchildren.

Donnovan Lyons, who most of you know from shul, and is now living in NJ, became engaged to Danielle Gorshein who hails from NJ. Mazal Tov to them and their families.

R. Aaron Slonim enjoyed a gala family birthday celebration attended by all of his children. What a grand simcha it was with children arriving from around the world: from Yehuda in Columbia to Shmuel from Texas and Channie from Arizona. Mendel, Mordechai, Yisroel, and Zalman were there as were Levi and Chaya Mushka. Chaya Mushka and her husband are currently living in Vestal while working remotely. May you continue to celebrate until 120!

Naomi Staiman's great-grandson Ahron Gavriel celebrated his becoming a Bar Mitzvah with a Grab-and-Go outdoor Oneg Shabbat. He's the son of Adina and Moshe Hahn and the grandson of Cathy and Steve Schuss. Harold and I had the z'chus to attend the Bar Mitzvah of Ahron, who was named for his great-great-grandfather Aaron Staiman whom some of you might remember. Mazal Tov to the extended Staiman family.

Hannah Katz, daughter of Naomi and Ellie Katz, enjoyed her much delayed Bat Mitzvah celebration with an outdoor bash at their Boca Raton home. Grandparents Roz and Harry Wiesel and Great-Grandfather Marcus Segal kvelled along with family and friends.

Michael Wright traded in his barrister's wig for a hard hat when he recently retired from Levine, Goulden, & Thompson. May he and Susan enjoy their retirement in good health, and may Michael spend many joyous moments in his workshop.

Regrettably, I failed to mention the passing of Marvin Kaplan in the last issue. He was a gentle man who moved here with his dear wife Maxine to be near their children Lori and Brian Tuberman and their grandchildren Melanie and Samantha. May the entire family find comfort among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalem.

I note the passing of Marian Rudin, recently of Pomona NY. Marian was one of the rare people who grew up in Binghamton and who davened at the United Hebrew Brother Synagogue on Carroll Street in Binghamton (the predecessor of Beth David). May the Rudin children, Jackie, Hal, and Louie, find comfort among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalem.

Another loss to the Beth David Family is that of longtime Binghamtonian, Bob Groh. As a youngster, Bob moved to Binghamton from Wilkes Barre with his parents. Bob, along with Marion Rudin, Lillian Zodikoff and Ruth Goldstein, who we also lost this year, shared stories of our shul's early years and of Binghamton's fledging Jewish community. May the Groh family, daughter Sharon Groh-Mintz and grandchildren Abigail, Orly, and Michael know no more sorrow.

We also mourn the loss of Rachel Leah Wiesel, mother of Harry Wiesel. May Roz and Harry, and the entire Wiesel family find comfort among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalem.

Purim brings to mind festive times with a family seudah, costumes, and joy. This year things will be a bit different as we remember the courage of Esther and Mordechai in much smaller gatherings. May we celebrate in joy, and pray that covid will be behind us soon so we may celebrate together once again.

Please share news of your Beth David Family by notifying me, Meryl Sasnowitz, at msasnowitz@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Meryl Sasnowitz

Contributions

General Fund from:

Arnold & Martha Schechter in memory of Shmuel Morell and Marie Werner
Linda & Richard Borkow in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Harry Polachek and Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Rosalie Borkow
Martha Klionsky in memory of Marie Werner
Hal & Debra Rudin in memory of Marian Rudin
Shelly Goldman Black in memory of Marian Rudin
Suzanne Krause in memory of Marian Rudin
Shelly Goldman Black in memory of Bob Groh
Avrum & Beth Morell in memory of Dr. Shmuel Morell
Les & Barbara Bank in memory of Harry Wiesel's mother
Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine to thank Ahren Edison for helping to make the Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
David & Virginia Eisenberg Fund to repair the roof
Jacob & Rose Olum Foundation
Rabbi Zev Silber
Dr. Howard & Betty Warner
Benjamin & Susan Ansell
Robert Tomanek
Marilyn Bell
Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

Shul Beautiful to:

Libby Rappaport on her birthday, from Marcy Yonaty.
Michael Wright on his retirement, from Marilyn Bell.
Merri Pell Preus & Tony Preus on their new grandson, from Marilyn Bell.
Donnovan Lyons & his fiancée, Danielle, on their engagement, from Stacey & Eliezer Silber
Mr. & Mr. Hal Rudin in memory of his mother, Marion Rudin, from Marilyn Bell.
Abigail Romirowsky in memory of her grandfather, Bob Groh, from Marilyn Bell.
Harry & Roz Wiesel in memory of his mother, Rachel Wiesel, from Marilyn Bell
Elaine Belman wishing her a happy, healthy birthday from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty

Give Double *Chai* to the *ChaiLine*

I hope you, our readers, are well and following all the rules during this pandemic. Last year, at this time, we were joyfully preparing to celebrate Purim, attend a *seudah*, and sending and receiving *Shalach Monot*. Let's hope and pray that things will soon be under control and back to normal.

Unfortunately, we have not had services in the building since the High Holidays because of the pandemic and I for one really miss it.

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 (3/7/21) will be most appreciated.

Happy and healthy Purim to all.
Marlene Serkin

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Rika & Steve Katz in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughters, **Meira Banks** of Boston and **Ruth Reifman** of Yad Benyamin, Israel

Marcy Yonaty in memory of her mother **Sophie Slutzker** & her sister-in-law **Elizabeth Slutzker**

Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy in memory of **Bob Groh, Arlene Moidel, & Ralph Frishstein**, all of whom passed in January

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Purim

Beth David Synagogue
בית דוד

The 4 Mitzvot of Purim 2021

1. Kriyat HaMegillah - Reading the Megillah
(Evening & Morning) Rabbi Silber via ZOOM
2. Matanot LaEvyonim - Special Gifts to the Poor
Rabbi Silber will distribute
Due by February 19th (Local) / February 24th (Israel)
3. Mishloach Manot - Sharing Gifts with Friends
4. Seudat Purim - Festive Meal

Friday, Feb 19

ZOOM Purim and Parashah Class with Rabbi Silber1:00 pm

ZOOM Reading of Parashat Zachor

Shabbat Candlelighting5:23 pm

Shabbat, Feb 20 - Parashat Zachor פרשת תרומה/שבת זכור

Services..... AT HOME Shabbat Ends 6:25 pm

Wednesday, Feb 24

ZOOM Sisterhood Purim Celebration.....7:00 pm

Thursday, Feb 25 - Taanit Esther - Fast of Esther תענית אסתר

Fast Begins5:22 am

Shacharit - Morning Service | Mincha- Afternoon Service AT HOME

Fast Ends6:31 pm

Purim פורים

Maariv - Evening Service AT HOME after 6:30 pm

ZOOM Megillah Reading..... 6:45 pm

Friday, Feb 26 - Purim פורים

Shacharit - Morning Service AT HOME

ZOOM Megillah Reading..... 11:00 am

Purim Seudah - Festive Meal.....AT HOME

Mincha - Afternoon Service..... AT HOME

Shabbat Candlelighting5:32 pm

Shabbat, Feb 27 - Shushan Purim שבת פרשת תצוה/שושן פורים

Services..... AT HOME Shabbat Ends 6:34 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85242697581?pwd=c2lpY0lLN2lOUVNmZlZlOFlhTR0RMQT09>
Passcode: P89jK0

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114219098?pwd=TFZFQWY0MEdySldVMURnUkwzQlhYzZ09>
Passcode: 2ajyIU





Happy Purim



Beth David Sisterhood

HOSTS A

Pre-Purim ZOOM Celebration

WEDNESDAY

February 24, 2021

7:00 PM

You
Tube
Purim
Comedy
Videos

Reach Out to Friends

Purim, a holiday of fun and joy,
For young and old, girl and boy.
Together we are a community,
This year by screen each other we'll see.

Hillel
Academy
Students



Mordechai



Esther



Haman



Achashverus



zoom

ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114219098?pwd=TFZFQWY0MEdySWdVMURnUkwzQlhYz09> Passcode: 2ajy1U

Fast of Esther: Thurs, Feb 25th

Purim Megillah Reading: Thurs eve, Feb 26th / Fri morn, Feb 27th