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# CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

VOLUME LXII, ISSUE 5  
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## FROM THE RABBI

I am writing this column on Lag Baomer, the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the period of counting the Omer. This day is celebrated as a minor holiday since the plague that killed 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva ended on this day, so we celebrate.

But not this year. The tragedy that occurred at Meron last night has turned this day of celebration into an extension of the mourning period that we have been observing. Not only for the families that have suffered such a tragic loss, not only for the families of those who were injured who do not yet know the fate of their loved ones, but for all Jews in Israel and throughout the world.

Such a horrific disaster during the joyous celebration of this holiday has jolted all us, has saddened any caring and compassionate person, and has led to so many unanswered questions. Even after taking time to ponder the events, these questions remain unanswerable. We cannot find the words that would make sense of horrors that plague all these innocent people. We cannot phantom the mind of God and understand why there is so much suffering. The only response that we have is the acceptance of the decree. In pain and anger, we beseech God that He comforts those who mourn and heal those who are injured. Our shul joins the rest of the world in this prayer.

The pandemic that the world has suffered for more than a year, and continues to plague many around the world, has finally begun to retreat in our community, allowing us to reopen our beloved shul for services this Shabbat. I hope and pray that this will be last time that we cancel services because of the plague.

My initial thought about this message, prior to today, was to compare the ending of the plague in the time of Rabbi Akiva to the slowing of our modern plague today. I was going to note the celebration of Lag Baomer with our celebration of returning to shul. Alas, that message seems meaningless when we ache from last night's tragedy.

But there is still a message that can be learned from the counting of the Omer. We count each day from Pesach to Shavuot, from getting our freedom from slavery to getting the freedom of studying the Torah and remembering revelation, in order to teach us that we have to make every day count. None of us knows what the future will bring, nor when it will happen. Tragedy can unfortunately strike at any time, and we cannot prevent it. What we can do is make sure that each day counts, in our personal relationships and in our spiritual growth.

Now that shul is open, we should all commit to increase our frequency of attending services, especially on Shabbat, and especially on the upcoming holiday of Shavuot. Let us take the opportunity to commune with God each and every day, so that every day counts.

Wishing consolation to the bereaved, healing to the injured and blessing for you and your families and all Israel.

*Chag Sameach!*

Rabbi Zev Silber

## From The President

Wishing the congregation a Happy Shavuot! Hopefully we will be able to meet in our beautiful synagogue for this holiday and enjoy being with each other.

Saba Wiesner

### Shavuot Schedule

Sunday, May 16	Candle lighting	8:01 pm
	<i>Blessing: L'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov and Shehechayanu</i>	
	Mincha/Maariv	8:05 pm
Monday, May 17	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Candle lighting <span style="float: right;"><i>after</i></span>	9:02 pm
	<i>Blessing: L'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov and Shehecheyanu</i>	
	Mincha/Maariv	8:05 pm
Tuesday, May 18	Shacharit	9:00 am
	Yizkor <span style="float: right;">approximately</span>	10:50 am
	<b><i>Sisterhood Luncheon cancelled</i></b>	
	Mincha/Ma'ariv	8:05 pm
	Yom Tov ends	9:03 pm

## Thank You

I thank you all for your donations in memory of my beloved father, Marcus Segal. Your words Have been a comfort to me and my family.

Roz Wiesel

### May-July Minyan Times

#### MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday 8:30 am

Monday—Friday 7:00 am

*Except May 12; June 10, 11* 6:50 am

*Except May 17; 18* 9:00 am

*Except May 31* 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— Thursday, May 9-13 7:55 pm

Sunday-Tuesday, May 16-18

*See Shavuot Schedule*

Wednesday-Thursday, May 19-20 8:05 pm

Sunday-Thursday, May 23-27 8:10 pm

Sunday-Thursday, May 30-June 3 8:15 pm

Sunday-Thursday, June 6-10 8:20 pm

Sunday-Thursday, June 13-17 8:25 pm

Sunday-Thursday, June 20-24 8:30 pm

*Sunday, June 27* 8:15 pm

Monday-Thursday, June 28-July 1 8:30 pm

Sunday-Thursday, July 4-8 8:25 pm

Sunday-Thursday, July 11-15 8:20 pm

# Shavuot Customs and Practices

**When:** Shavuot begins on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at night, and lasts through the day of Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**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 the shul will be open for in person services and/or Torah study. I will advise you in my weekly e-mail updates about the situation and plans. 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.***

**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. If there are no services in shul, I will conduct a Yizkor service on ZOOM on Erev Shavuot, Sunday, May 16, at 1:00 pm.***

**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. ***Presently, there is no plan to host the luncheon even if the shul is open for services. If the plan changes, I will notify you by e-mail.***

## Contributions

### General Fund from:

Aaron & Miriam Alweis  
Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber  
Les & Barbara Bank in memory of Marcus Segal, father of Roz Wiesel  
Marilyn Bell in memory of Alan Buschman  
Laura Greger in memory of Shmuel Morell & Marie Werner  
Mark & Shelley Hubal in memory of Alan Buschman  
Michael & Saba Wiesner in memory of Shirley Raff & Marcus Segal

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

One of the objects of the *ChaiLine* is to keep you, our members and friends, informed on what is going on at Beth David. Well, a big thing happened on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we opened the Shul for services again. The last service held in Beth David was Yom Kippur. All this was due to the covid pandemic. Things are looking better in our area, so we are going to go back to what a shul should be.

A lot of thanks go to Rabbi Silber for all the Zoom classes on the weekly *parasha*, Talmud, and the pre-holiday Yizkor services. He also helped greatly with the Sisterhood meetings and Board meetings.

Please attend services to assure our having minyans, we need you, and know it or not, you need us.

We depend on your sponsorship of \$36.00 an issue, and thank you notes at a minimum of \$18.00, to help in keeping the *ChaiLine* self-sustaining.

The deadline for the next issue is June 27, 2021. Send your check, made out to Beth David, along with the message you would like in the *ChaiLine*, to the shul before the deadline. Thank you.

Marlene Serkin

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

**Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy** in honor of the graduation of their nephew, **Jeremy Martin-Joy**, from Syracuse University

**Miriam & Aaron Alweis** in honor of the births of their grandchildren, **Chai Nisan to Michael & Malka** and **Tehilla Elisheva to Daniel & Rivkah**, and to thank our numerous well wishers

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### 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:**

Aaron & Miriam Alweis on their new grandson

Aaron & Miriam Alweis on their new granddaughter

Rabbi Aaron & Rivky Slonim on their new grandson, Tzemech Shemtov

Rabbi & Rochel Chein on their new son, Mordechai

Dora Polachek for all her efforts on behalf of InterSisterhood

Maxine Rosenberg in appreciation for her volunteering to teach English Paper Piecing to the InterSisterhood this month

**Condolences to:**

Howard & Ruth Buschman on the loss of their beloved son, Alan.

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# SISTERHOOD

Dear Members and Friends of Sisterhood,

Can you believe it is nearly Shavuot already? I'm still looking for things I put away before Passover!

We hope these last few weeks have gone well for everyone.

If you attended the Inter-Sisterhood meeting hosted by Temple Israel, we hope you enjoyed the experience and are pleased with your finished product. We extend our thanks to Maxine Rosenberg and all those who made the evening possible.

Now that it is May, we should be holding our Donor meeting at someone's home and enjoying tempting deserts and enjoyable conversations. Regrettably because of health concerns, this will not happen this year.

So instead, we must once again appeal to our loyal members to send their **Donor check of \$25, or more**, and provide their own refreshments and entertainment. (This would also be a good time to pay for any Mitzvah cards you may have ordered and not yet paid for). Contact Marlene and she will tell you what you owe.

It is our intention to hold a meeting to close out what has been a very unusual year. It is tentatively scheduled for June 9.

Meanwhile we wish everyone good health and Chag Sameach. May we soon be able to greet each other in person.

Cathy Velenchik, Co- President Beth David Sisterhood

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz the walls of Jerusalem were breached during the period of the second Temple, and the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

Since the next *ChaiLine* will 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 Sunday, June 27, and continue through 9 Av, which occurs on Sunday, July 18.

**The fast of 17 Tammuz:** This day is observed as a fast day, with the fast beginning in the morning at 3:36 am and ending at nightfall, at 9:26 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.

# Beth David Family

It is with great joy I note the birth of several babies to our BD Family members. Locally, a boy, Mordechai, was brought into the Chein family. Mazal Tov to Zalman and Rochel Chein, and the entire Chein mishpacha. Chaya Mushkah and Mendel Shemtov welcomed a boy, Tzemach, into their home. Bubbe Rivky and Zeyde Aaron Slonim are kvelling over the new addition to the family. Mazal Tov also to Aunt Hadasa and Uncle Levi, and to the entire Slonim family.

The Alweis family added two branches to its family tree. Malka and Mikey Alweis of Teaneck had a boy, Chai Nissan, and Rivka and Dan Alweis of Rehovot had a girl, Tehilla Elisheva. Grandparents Miriam and Aaron and Aunt Elisa are overjoyed with the news.

Dov and Naama Morell had a boy. He's the grandson of Eitan and Varda Morell of Talmon. Mazal Tov to the extended Morell family. Mel Rozen of Florida, emailed that he just welcomed his 30<sup>th</sup> great grandchild, a girl, into his family. May each of the babies grow to Bat/Bar Mitzvah, to chuppah, and to 120 in Good Health!

Arky Staiman, named for his great-grandfather Aaron Staiman a"h, son of Chana and Jeremy Staiman of Beit Shemesh, grandson of Naomi Staiman, became engaged to Esti Myers of Baltimore. As a tour guide specializing in tours for families of young and teenage children, Arky joins the Beth David Family of Israeli Tour guides: Eitan Morell, Yomi Groner, and Ami Adamit.

Bruriah High School for Girls in Elizabeth, NJ, recently appointed Bethany Strulowitz as Assistant Principal. Yasher Koach to Bethany, her husband Josh, their children, and her parents Rita and Larry Bleier.

*Kol Hakavod* to Sue Feuerstein who was recently honored by the Teaneck Baseball Association (TBA) for devoting 25 years to the organization. She was recognized for her hands-on involvement with all aspects of the group. Mazal Tov to Sue, Louie, and the entire Rudin clan.

Refuah shelemah to Les Bank.

With sadness I note the untimely passing of Alan Buschman, the son of Ruth and Howard Buschman. May his wife, his parents, and his siblings, Steven and Suzie know no more sorrow.

I also note the passing of the mother of Hadassah Gold. Sadly, her father was recently deceased as well. May Hadassah, Dan, and Tzionna Gold of Tzfat find comfort among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

As we look forward to Shavuot, may we each feel the anticipation of our ancestors as they eagerly awaited the arrival of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, and may each of us gain new insights from the Torah's words.

Please keep me informed of Beth David Family news.

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