



39 Riverside Dr
Binghamton, NY 13905

E-mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Web Site: BethDavid.org
607-722-1793
Marlene Serkin, Coordinator
mserkin@stny.rr.com

CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

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Chanukah, December 2021-5782

FROM THE RABBI

We are all familiar with the story. After the Maccabees defeated the army of Antiochus and liberated Jerusalem, they cleared the Holy Temple of the idols placed in it and rededicated the Temple to its service of God. However, they only found one small cruse of pure oil that had the seal of approval of the Kohen gadol, and it only contained enough oil to light the Menorah for one day. Some say that the amount of oil was not even sufficient for one day. A great miracle happened that the little amount of oil lasted for 8 days, until a new supply was able to be prepared.

In recognition of the miracle of the oil, the rabbis established an 8-day holiday to celebrate the victory and the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty over Jerusalem and much of Israel.

I always wondered what was the need for the little cruse of oil. If God was going to perform a miracle, He could just have miraculously filled the lamps of the menorah each night, and the priests would discover the sudden appearance of oil to light.

I think that we can answer this question by a better understanding of how God acts in a miraculous way, and how He bestows blessings upon us. God does not do a miracle out of thin air. Other than a very few times at the time of creation, God does not create something where nothing had existed before. God will shower his blessings upon us by increasing something that we already have, a miracle. We need to begin the process, and God will bless us with even greater success than we imagined possible.

The Maccabees needed to go to battle even though they were outnumbered and poorly armed. They needed to find a little oil, even though it wasn't much, and believe that it will last for 8 days. And God blessed them by increasing their strength and prowess, and increasing the ability for a little oil to last a long time.

We need to develop and create the Iron Dome defense system, and then God can increase its effectiveness. He will not just make the enemy missiles disintegrate and vanish in mid flight. We need to develop a vaccine and then God will increase its efficacy. That is the way God performs miracles.

The same can be said about our beloved shul. We long that the shul can return to the vibrancy that it had in the past. We wish that minyanim will be held daily, we yearn for a return of all the activities and events, celebrations and crowds that filled our building. This would indeed be miraculous!

But this cannot happen in a vacuum. It will not suddenly appear, all by itself. There needs to be a starter fire ignited, to have a little candle burning, in order to achieve the growth that we desire. And that is up to us.

From the Rabbi con't

We need to make sure that there are minyanim each Shabbat and begin an effort to expand their frequency. As the pandemic will surely end, hopefully soon, we must act to reestablish our activities and attend them, if we want to see them and our shul grow and return to its former glory.

The message of the miracle of the oil is that there is abundant potential if we make the effort. Let us all work together to make that happen.

I wish you a Chanukkah Sameach!

Rabbi Zev Silber

Chanukah Customs and Practices

When: Chanukkah begins on Sunday, November 28th at night. The last candle is lit on Sunday night, December 5th and the holiday ends at nightfall on Monday, December 6th.

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. This year, the Shabbat that coincides with Chanukkah is also Rosh Chodesh and we will read from 3 Torah scrolls and a special *Haftarah* for Chanukkah. Sunday, December 5 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 3rd we light 6 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 4th 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.

From The President

I believe that we can all agree that there is a lot of bad news out there.

The virus, the economy, global warming, enraged citizens, guns and we could keep adding to a terribly long list. Our community has its own problem with COVID, the virus has gotten stuck here and for months there is no significant lowering of infection.

I am trying, as I'm sure many of you do, to find some positive focus so there is not the constant feeling of dread.

In the last few months almost every Shabbos morning when I get to shul there are already at least ten men, and not always the same group. They are coming a bit earlier so services are not extremely long and most of the time we have twenty to twenty-five people. Masked and seated apart, but we are there, and it is such a comforting feeling to see that Shabbos morning at Beth David is alive and well.

Even under such problematic conditions our congregation upholds what is so important.

I want to acknowledge and thank all those who make it possible to have our beautiful services in our beautiful synagogue.

In time we pray that this virus will subside and we can take off the masks and get together again after services and enjoy the lovely kiddush that we have always had at our shul.

With the holiday of Chanukah approaching let's hope for a miracle to end COVID.

I hope that you will all enjoy the beautiful holiday of Chanukah.

Saba Wiesner

President, Beth David Synagogue

NOVEMBER-MARCH MINYAN TIMES

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday 8:30 am
Monday – Friday 7:00 am
Except January 3; February 1,2; March 3,4: 6:50 am
Except November 25-26; December 24,31;
February 21: 8:30 am

Shabbat 9:30 am

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

EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday – Thursday - 7:00 pm (until March 13)
Except November 25: 4:20 pm

EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday and Shabbat – by Request only

Thursday, November 25 4:20 pm
Sunday, November 28 4:20 pm
Sunday, December 5 4:15 pm
Sunday, December 12 4:15 pm
Tuesday, December 14 4:05 pm
Sunday, December 19 4:20 pm
Sunday, December 26 4:25 pm
Sunday, January 2 4:30 pm
Sunday, January 9 4:35 pm
Sunday, January 16 4:45 pm
Sunday, January 23 4:50 pm
Sunday, January 30 5:00 pm
Sunday, February 6 5:10 pm
Sunday, February 13 5:20 pm
Sunday, February 20 5:30 pm
Sunday, February 27 5:35 pm
Sunday, March 6 5:45 pm
Sunday – Tuesday, March 13-15 6:55 pm
Wednesday, March 16 6:40 pm

Give Double *Chai* to the *ChaiLine*

I want to get personal and express my condolences to the Staiman Family on the loss of their mother, Naomi. Naomi and I became friends when she moved to Binghamton. During the time she was here, she and I had a service that we called the N and M Kiddush service and saw to it that there was a Kiddush every Shabbat. Before the *ChaiLine*, Beth David had a mimeographed bulletin that we both, along with her husband, Sholom, worked on. She was a great hostess, just ask any NCSY member of that era. Our children were good friends, growing up together. There is so much more to say that I can't think of it all. Beth David Synagogue, and the Beth David family were very important to the Staiman Family and the Staiman family was very important to Beth David Synagogue.

The cost of sponsoring the *ChaiLine* is a donation of \$36:00, a thank you note is \$18.00. Your check, made out to Beth David with *ChaiLine* on *the* memo line, and a note telling me what you want to say is all that is required. Send it to the Shul or to me at mserkin@stny.rr.com. Thank you to our previous sponsors. Keep it up!

Happy Chanukah to all,
Marlene Serkin

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Rika & Steve Katz in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, **Efraim**

Banks, son of Tamar Katz & Eitan Banks

Marcy & Gaby Yonaty in memory of **Alfredo Verone**

Bob Kutz for the cards, phone calls, Mitzvah Cards, and donations made wishing him a *refuah shelemah* (speedy recovery) after his knee surgery

Marlene Serkin in memory of **Naomi Staiman**

Contributions

General Fund from:

Erin Maxfield

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Toby Grier

Kathy Shelly

Mark Budman

Daniel Alweis

Stephanie Horowitz

Sheldon Edison in honor of the marriage of Elisa Alweis & Melech Lapson

Robert & Diana Weiss in memory of Mitchel Slutzker

Elaine Rapaport in memory of Marie Werner

Marlene Serkin in memory of Naomi Staiman

Marti Klionsky in memory of Naomi Staiman

Marilyn Bell in memory of Naomi Staiman

In memory of Leonore (Lynn) Manasse:

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Carol Herz & Howard Schwartz

Rhonda Levine & Arie Ullmann

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

In honor of Dora Polachek by Miriam Rosenfeld

Shul Beautiful

Dr. Gerald & Susan Hubal in memory of Mitchell Slutzker

Arie Ullmann & Rhonda Levine in memory of Mitchell Slutzker

Irving & Myra Memis in memory of Mitchell Slutzker

Robert & Maria Kutz in memory of Mitchell Slutzker

Robert & Maria Kutz in memory of Lynn Manasse

SISTERHOOD

Members and Friends of Beth David Sisterhood,

We hope the Jewish Holidays went well for you. You may remember that due to COVID, very minimal Kiddushes were held in the Sukkah this year, so we did not ask for additional volunteers. Our thanks as always to those who helped without being asked.

Please remember that the volunteer schedule for Shabbos Kiddushes will be activated whenever weekly Kiddushes resume.

In September we grieved over the loss of Sisterhood's Historian Leonore (Lynn) Manasse. She was a good friend and a loyal member.

The first Sisterhood meeting of the new season was held in October, on zoom. Many thanks to Rivka Kellman who spoke about women in the bible.

Despite the cancellation of our November paid up membership luncheon, our treasurer Kerry Wright continues to accept Membership dues (\$25) and payment for mitzvah cards which are now \$3 each.

In November we co-sponsored along with Chabad the Mega Challah Bake.

Currently we are making plans for a **Post Chanukah Party scheduled for December 8**. If anyone has any suggestions of some games, or program ideas that might help make the December meeting fun (whether on zoom or in person), please contact our program chair Susan Wright.

In place of our January meeting, we will be co-sponsoring a 2-hour virtual tour of Auschwitz in commemoration of the liberation of the camp. The event is scheduled for Sunday January 23, at 9:30 am.

We hope that Thanksgiving and Chanukah will be joyous holidays for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely Cathy Velenchik Co- President Beth David Sisterhood.

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Aaron & Miriam Alweis on the marriage of their daughter, Elisa to Melech Lapson.

Rabbi Levi & Hadasa Slonim on their son, Mendel, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Zalman & Rochel Chein on their son, Berky, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Condolences to:

The Staiman Family in memory of Naomi.

Marcy Yonaty on the passing of her brother, Mitchell Slutzker.

Charlie Manasse on the passing of his sister, Leonore.

THANKS TO

Rabbi 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 Velenchik for all the shopping for the Yom Tov *kiddushim* (even though they were very limited since we had to suspend the kiddushim in the middle of August!), preparing the candles, and the many behind the scenes jobs they take care of

Cathy Velenchik for providing the Yahrtzeit candles, shopping and arranging for people to serve and clean up for the holiday *kiddushim* (even though they were very limited!)

Lori and Brian Tuberman for the flowers in the sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in honor of their mothers Maxine Kaplan and Joyce Harary, and in memory of their fathers Lawrence Tuberman, Marvin Kaplan and Jack Harary

Aaron Alweis and Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu for excellence in Shofar blowing

Gaby Yonaty, Rabbi Ben Menora and the student volunteers from JLIC for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah and decorating it, and to Rabbi Levi Slonim and Chabad student volunteers who repaired the Sukkah after the *schach* was blown down by the wind

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, and for keeping the web site up to date

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 supervising repairs and upkeep of our beautiful shul, and guiding the shul through the pandemic

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

Rabbi Zev Silber for being our "ZOOM" master for congregation and Sisterhood meetings, for his informative weekly updates, and conducting classes and services on line

TODAH RABAH

Beth David Family

Mendel, son of Hadasa and Levi Slonim, was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah amongst family and friends in Crown Heights. He celebrated with the Binghamton Community at a Sukkat luncheon at the Vestal Chabad House. Mazal Tov to the extended Slonim family including Bubbe and Zeyde Rivky and Aaron Slonim.

Berky, son of Rochel and Zalman Chein marked his becoming a Bar Mitzvah amongst family and friends. Berky, who at a young age used to help set up the weekly Beth David kiddush, morphed into a learned, caring young man.

Mia Gurevich, daughter of Jordan and Elisa Wiesel Gurevich and sister of Sydney, finally celebrated her becoming a Bat Mitzvah after a couple of Covid postponements. Bubbe Roz and Saba Harry Wiesel kvelled at the CT simcha along with Mia's aunts and uncles Naomi and Eli Katz of Boca Raton and David and Yocheved Wiesel of Teaneck.

Mazal Tov to Marion Morell on the birth of a great granddaughter, Liat Orly, born to her grandchildren Tehilla and Eli Shulman. A baby girl was welcomed into the home of Tzipora and Meir Leibowitz. Mazal Tov to grandparents Debbie and Hal Rudin and the entire Rudin Mishpacha. May the babies grow to Bat Mitzvah, and chuppah, and to 120 in good health!

Elisa Alweis married Melech Lapson on an October Sunday in Passaic, NJ. It was a freilichen simcha that included many celebrants from Binghamton and from the Lapson's Chicago community. Mazal Tov to Elisa's parents Miriam and Aaron Alweis and to her siblings Dan and Rivka, who flew in from Israel with their children, and Mike and Malka of Teaneck. May the couple build a *bayit ne'eman b'Yisroel*.

Marlene Serkin delighted in her NJ visit with her grandchildren Tova and Yair and their children Noam and Gil. The Israeli family was visiting Marlene's granddaughter Devorah at her home in Montclair. Uncle David Serkin enjoyed the mini family reunion.

Refuah shelemah to Brian Tuberman.

With sadness I note the passing of Mitchell Slutzker, the brother of Marcy Yonaty. May his children Michael and Julie Slutzker and his daughter Laureen and sister and brother-in-law Marcy and Gavi Yonaty and the entire family know of no more sorrow.

I am saddened to inform you of the passing of our dear longtime Beth David member Herbert Goldstein, who left many extended family members and friends.

I am also saddened to inform you of the untimely passing of another dear longtime member, Leonore (Lynn) Manasse. Lynn was a presence at many Beth David celebrations and was a committed sisterhood member. May her brother Charles Manasse know of no more sorrow.

We mourn the loss of Naomi Staiman, a stalwart of Beth David throughout her family's long-term Triple Cities tenure. Naomi and her beloved husband Shalom a"h continued to support our Binghamton community from afar even after they eventually fulfilled their dream of making aliyah.

*Hamakon Yenachem Etchem b'toch sh'ar aveilei Tzion vee'rushalayim.
May the Almighty console each of the families among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

As we emerge from our Covid cocoons, I wish everyone a joyous Chanukah filled with laughter and song, flickering candles, spinning dreidels, sizzling latkes, and the ability to once again join together in prayer.

Meryl Sasnowitz