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CHAILINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

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Purim 5782/March 2022

FROM THE RABBI

As of this writing, we are, thank God, witnessing a dramatic reduction in COVID infections and things seem to be returning to normal. Last year, the shul was closed on Purim and Megillah reading took place on ZOOM. This year we have reopened for Shabbat morning services and the plan is that we will be reading the Megillah both at night and in the morning in shul. We are even planning a special Kiddush on the Shabbat before Purim after services, though we are not having the festive Purim meal in shul – just yet.

Thank God for the vaccines that is protecting the great majority of people. Let us all gather together in shul on Purim to thank God for the opportunity to do so! See the prayer schedule elsewhere in this ChaiLine.

Yet, all is not good. As of this writing we are witnessing a great tragedy thousands of miles away as another modern-day Haman is attacking and desires to annihilate the people of Ukraine. It feels like the beginning of another World War, especially if other evil despots around the world learn from the Russian evil dictator that the rest of the world will stand by and not directly confront him as he inflicts innocent populations to destruction and death. Haman of old attempted to do that to our people with the complicity of the immoral King Achashverosh.

On Purim we read that story in the Megillah. Let us learn a lesson from that story as we try to stop evil and immorality from enveloping our world.

One of the lessons that we see in the Megillah is that appeasement and negotiations do not prevent the purveyors of evil death. Direct confrontation is the only way to save the world. The anti-Semites in Persia still tried to kill the Jews even after Haman was disgraced and killed. Only by arming themselves and fighting those who attacked them were the Jews saved.

Another lesson that the rabbis learn from nuances in the way the story is written in the Megillah is that the only reason that the Jews were successful was because of the fasting and prayers to God that they observed as Esther was preparing herself to confront Haman in the presence of the King. That confrontation led to Haman's demise, and to the Jews being granted permission to arm themselves with weapons to defend themselves when being attacked.

Achashverosh did not need to allow that. He probably did not want to, based on his original willingness to permit Haman to attack. Because of the prayers, God intervened in the course of history, thus saving the Jewish people, and us, from annihilation.

Let us gather in heartfelt prayer to thank God for allowing us to begin the return to normal, and to beg for the end of war and the evil desire to annihilate innocent people. Join us each and every Shabbat, and especially on this Purim holiday!

Chag Purim Sameach!

Rabbi Zev Silber

From The President

Dear congregants,

I would normally begin or end this article with wishing you A Very Happy Purim.

Saying these words right now invokes sadness as well, there is so much suffering in Ukraine. Haman is of course who we will be reading about in the Book of Esther and we now have a Haman who is again destroying so many lives. Our hope is that the Haman in our midst will have the same end as in the story of Esther, then we can rejoice and thank G-D for his intervention.

As we celebrate Purim with family and friends please keep in your hearts and minds the tragedy that is unfolding and happening as we live our free lives.

Saba Wiesner, President

SISTERHOOD

Dear members and friends of Beth David Sisterhood,

We hope you are all well. Since the last *ChaiLine* was published, Sisterhood held a post Chanukah zoom Party in December, co-sponsored a 2-hour virtual tour of Auschwitz in January, and was invited by Temple Concord to attend "American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters", in February.

If you are reading this *ChaiLine* immediately upon receiving it, you still have time to join our pre-Purim celebration at 7 pm. on Thursday March 10, with entertainment by the Kellman Family Players. Thank you Kellmans.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89023882935?pwd=M1JlcFdHOGewblbnM29BdElQekFUZz09>

Sisterhood's next scheduled program is Wednesday March 30, at 7 pm when Rabbi Zev Silber will present his annual Passover workshop.

Please also mark your calendar for Sisterhood's **donor meeting Wednesday, May 11** and **InterSisterhood on Wednesday, May 25, 2022.**

It is anticipated that **weekly Shabbos kiddushes will resume on March 12**, so we remind everyone that these kiddushes are only possible if everyone helps out.

We thank Lori Tuberman and her helpers who baked hamantashen which we anticipate enjoying after the megillah reading on Purim.

Please continue to send your Mitzvah card requests to Toby Kohn, and send your payment for mitzvah cards (\$3), and outstanding Membership dues (\$25) or any other donations to our treasurer Kerry Wright.

As always, we thank Beth David Synagogue and Rabbi Silber for allowing us to use the synagogue's zoom account for our programs, and we thank Rabbi David Serkin for designing our beautiful flyers, and Marlene Serkin for sending out all of our Sisterhood communications.

Chag Sameach, Happy Purim!

Cathy Velenchik Co- President Beth David Sisterhood

From the V.P. a wish list....

I wish this could be printed upside down because that's how the world feels to me.

I wish someone who unscrambles code would unscramble what is happening in the world.

I wish Putin would be "neutralized." (Define "neutralized" anyway you want to.)

I wish people would listen to Edmund Burke who is attributed with the quote, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

I wish people would listen to George Satayana," Those who do not learn History are doomed to repeat it."

Putin seems to be taking pages out of the play books of Mussolini, Hitler and Goebbles.

I wish news reporting could be honorable as it was with Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather.

I wish people could see how totally ironic that Putin accuses the Government of Ukraine as being Nazi and Volodymyr Zelensky is Jewish. How similar to our historical Purim and the Book of Ruth.

I wish everyone a good Purim, a time for tzedakah, giving to the poor and less fortunate.

And, if you are able, and in any way you can, giving help to Ukraine.

Charlie Manasse

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 March 8. 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 March 8 will be sent to Israel. The deadline for contributions to be distributed in Israel is March 17.

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.

PRE-PESACH WORKSHOP

The Pre-Pesach workshop will be held Wednesday, March 30, at 7:00 pm, on Zoom. It will be led by Rabbi Zev Silber and is open to everyone. If it is changed from a Zoom meeting to an in-person meeting all will be notified.

Mitzvah Fund

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

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on the engagement of their granddaughter, Chavie to Zachary

Rochie & Pesach Sommer on the engagement of their daughter, Chavie

Refuah Shelemah to:

Maxine Kaplan

Bob Kutz

Marilyn Bell

Condolences to:

Ruth Buschman & Family on the loss of her dear husband, Howard

Jerry Cohen & Family on the loss of his dear mother, Lois Mae

PURIM SCHEDULE

Ta'anit Ester

Wednesday, March 16 *Fast begins 5:51 am*
Fast ends 7:56 pm

Purim

Wednesday, March 16 Ma'ariv 7:40 pm
Megillah 7:45 pm
Thursday, March 17 Shacharit 6:50 am
Megillah 7:15 am

MARCH MINYAN TIMES

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday 8:30 am

Monday – Friday 7:00 am
Except March 17 6:50 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)

EVENINGS (Times vary)
Friday and Shabbat-By Request only

Sunday-Tuesday, March 13-15 6:55 pm
Wednesday, March 16 6:40 pm
Thursday, March 17 6:55 pm
Sunday-Thursday, March 20-24 7:00 pm
Sunday-Thursday, March 27-31 7:10 pm

Purim Customs and Practices

When: Purim begins on Wednesday, March 16 at night, and lasts through the day of Thursday, March 17. The fast of Esther is observed on Wednesday, March 16.

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 the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Adar II until the Shabbat of Rosh Chodesh Nisan. The *Shabbat* before Purim we read **Parshat Zachor – remember** – and this serves as 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*. You are encouraged to be in shul on Shabbat morning, March 12 to fulfill this obligation.

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 Wednesday, March 16. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:51 am and ending at 7:53 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. At Beth David we will be reading the Megillah on Wednesday night, March 16 at 7:45 pm and Thursday morning, March 17 at 7:15 am, following Shacharit. **There will not be an afternoon reading this year.**

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.

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 **March 10**, and gifts for Israeli poor must be made by **March 17**. *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). The meal should preferably include meat and a little more wine than you usually drink. **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. We do not say *tachanun* in honor of day.

Give Double Chai to the ChaiLine

For this, our annual Purim issue, I thought of trying to write something funny, but I am not a comedienne, nor am I a writer (comedy or otherwise). Also, with what is going on in Ukraine, I don't feel it is time for comedy.

I do want to thank all our sponsors, past, present, and future. Without you, the *ChaiLine* would show up as a debit on the Synagogue budget, and this is no joke.

Your donation of \$36.00 (regular sponsor) \$180.00 (**Special Sponsor**), or \$18.00 (thank you, or any message) received by me before the next deadline (3/20/2022) will be very much appreciated.

Chag Purim Sameach!

Marlene Serkin

Sponsor

Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy in memory of their parents Max and Helen Velenchik and Nan and Bob Joy.

Contributions

General Fund from:

Martha Klionsky in memory of Naomi Staiman
Marilyn Bell in memory of Naomi Staiman
Marilyn Bell in memory of Howard Buschman
Nancy Basmann in memory of Jeremy Ullmann & Marie Werner
Laura Greger in honor of Rabbi Silber

Hal Waldman	Richard & Lori Lewis	Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy
Louis Rudin	Benjamin & Susan Ansell	Steve & Rika Katz
Elaine Green	Brian & Lori Tuberman	Sol & Dora Polachek
R. Zev & Judy Silber	Aaron & Miriam Alweis	Howard & Betty Warner
Eva & Milton J. Braslow Foundation		Jacob & Rose Olum Foundation

Shul Beautiful Fund

Gerald & Susan Hubal in memory of Naomi Staiman

Beth David Family

Mazal Tov to Lillian Sommer on becoming a first-time great-grandmother. Her children Avi and Rachel Sommer Nadel became first-time grandparents thanks to the birth of a boy to Dassy and Harel Davidi. All three families live in Kochav Hashackar, so they enjoy many daily moments together.

Donovan and Danielle Lyons of Edison NJ welcomed a boy, Yochanan, into their family. Donovan noted that the family will soon be relocating to Passaic. Charney and Pinchas Oppenheim of Jerusalem are kvelling over their latest great-grandson, Elazar, grandson to Elaine and Shai Mandel. Abbie and Achi Adamit welcomed a girl, Shefa Chai, into their Teaneck family. Israeli grandparents SarahLynn and Ami Adamit arrived in NJ to spend time with their latest granddaughter. May each of the babies reach Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and Chupah, and to 120 in good health!

Mazal Tov to Ari and Tova Sacher of Israel on the marriage of their daughter Anael to Assaf Frankel. Anael's grandparents, Ruth and Ed Sacher, are shepping much nachat. May the couple build a Bayit ne'eman b'Yisroel. Harold and I are kvelling over the engagement of our granddaughter Chavi to Zecharya Runge of Minneapolis. Chavi is the daughter of Rochie and Marc Sommer of Passaic. In that small world of connections, I learned that Zecharya's Mother, Wendie Weiner Runge, was a roommate of Tziviah Staiman, and, Rapael Groner's father was Wendie's parents' rabbi in Omaha where she spent her childhood.

Kol Hakavod to Aaron Alweis who was quoted in the winter issue of *Jewish Action* magazine. The article "Inside the Mind of the Gabbai" focused on the multi-faceted job of the shul gabbai. Les Bank was feted by his entire family, all the children and grandchildren, during a winter week in Florida. It was Les' special birthday celebration that brought them together. May Les and Barbara celebrate many smachot in good health!

Cathy Valenichik and Chaim Joy spent a week in their Fairfield CT home away from home. While there, they met Harold and me for dinner at a Stamford restaurant. It was great catching up with friends we hadn't seen in years.

With sadness I note the passing of Howard Buschman. May his wife Ruth, and the Buschman children and grandchildren find comfort among the Mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. We also mourn the loss of Lois Mae Cohen, the mother of Jerome Cohen. May Jerry and Elaine and the entire Cohen family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

If you are ever in the NYC/NJ/CT area let us know. We'd love to meet you and kvell over your family news. If we don't catch up in person, you can send me your news at msasnowitz@gmail.com or call me at 607-760-5207. I don't want this column to be all about me, so PLEASE let me know about your family's happenings.

Have a freilechen Purim!

Meryl Sasnowitz



Beth David Sisterhood

invites you to a



 **zoom Pre-Purim meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89023882935?pwd=MlJlcFdHOGEwblDnM29BdElQekFUZz09>

THURSDAY

March 10, 2022

7:00 PM

KELLMAN FAMILY PLAYERS



Rabbi Benny and Rivka Kellman with their talented family

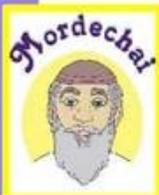


- will weave a *shpiel* of the *Purim* story
- perform stand-up comedy
- regale us with three original *Purim* songs



You'll laugh. You may cry. You will certainly feel joyous energy.

A short business meeting
will be held before the entertainment.



Purim 5782 - March 2022

at Beth David Synagogue

Fast of Esther **Weds, March 16**

|| Megillah Reading - Wednesday evening - 7:45PM ||

Purim **Thurs, March 17**

|| Megillah Reading - Thursday morning - 7:15AM ||

Gifts to the Poor - *Mishloach Manot* - Festive Meal

