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CHAI LINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

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Chanukah, December 2022/5782

FROM THE RABBI

Please note: The following is from the archives of the Beth David Synagogue ChaiLine. Written in 2005, I believe that its message still resonates today, with our shrinking population and difficulty in getting a minyan. RZS

The holiday of Chanukkah begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev. As Maimonides states in the laws of Chanukkah, on this day the Jews overpowered their enemies and entered the holy Temple, cleaned it, and only found one jug of pure olive oil, enough to light just one night. But they were able to light from it for 8 nights, until they were able to prepare a new supply of oil.

My teacher, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik asked that if they didn't light the menorah until that night, then the miracle first occurred on the 26th of the month. Why doesn't Chanukkah first begin on that day?

Rabbi Soloveitchik answers that the Rambam holds that, besides the mitzvah of lighting the menorah each night, there is also a separate mitzvah of *hatavat haneirot* – arranging and cleaning the menorah, changing the wicks, and lighting them briefly during the day, so that the candles burn better at night. Since this preparation, which is necessary for the mitzvah of lighting the menorah, was done during the day of the 25th of Kislev, it is considered as if the miracle had already begun. Thus, we celebrate Chanukkah for 8 days beginning on the 25th of the month.

True, the menorah can technically be lit without carefully arranging the candles and cleaning it beforehand. Yet, there is a special mitzvah to make the menorah clean and orderly, so that the lights can shine clearly and brightly.

Chanukkah's message comes from the joy of lighting, but we also must remember the task involved in the preparation. The symbolism of *hatava* – the arranging of the candles, is dual: a readiness to roll up one's sleeves and apply himself to a goal, and the emotional ability to invest today to harvest the fruits only tomorrow - and sometimes tomorrow occurs much later than the following day.

May we extend this message to everything in our lives, and especially to our shul. We all love participating in events and services, and often forget that someone has to do the “dirty work” to make them possible. Serving on a committee, volunteering to cook and clean, or participating in fundraising are essential components that make the glorious events possible. Doing these is not as glorious as the event itself, but even more necessary. We look forward to your participation.

Rabbi Zev Silber

Chanukah Greetings

The Beth David board of trustees and Rabbi Zev Silber wish all our members and friends a Chanukah *Sameach*.

Saba Wiesner,
President

Chanukkah Customs and Practices

When: Chanukkah begins on Sunday, December 18th at night. The last candle is lit on Sunday night, December 25th and the holiday ends at nightfall on Monday, December 26th.

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 25 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 (5:19 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 5:49 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 23rd we light 6 candles (plus the *shamash*). Chanukkah candles **must** be lit **before** Shabbat candles, before 4:18 PM. Enough oil or large candles must be used so that they remain lit until at least 5:38 PM. On Saturday night, December 24th we must light **after** Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:19 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.

Editor Wanted

I enjoy editing, or as I call it, coordinating, the *ChaiLine*. This, the bulletin of Beth David Synagogue comes out 6 times a year. I am at a time when I feel that I should give this position over to someone else.

Please give me a call (607-729-3235) to discuss what the position involves.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Marlene Serkin, *ChaiLine* coordinator

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: AT THE PRESENT TIME, BETH DAVID ONLY HAS MINYAN ON SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY MORNINGS, AND ON SPECIAL DAYS, AS NOTED BELOW. FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE MINYANIM AT NIGHT, AS WELL. A MINYAN AT OTHER TIMES MAY POSSIBLY BE ARRANGED, UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT THE RABBI.

Friday, December 9	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:13 pm	Friday, January 27	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:53 pm
Shabbat, December 10	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:14 pm	Shabbat, January 28	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:55 pm
Friday, December 16	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:14 pm	Friday, February 3	<i>candle lighting</i>	5:02 pm
Shabbat, December 17	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:15 pm	Shabbat, February 4	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 6:04 pm
Friday, December 23	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:18 pm	Friday, February 10	<i>candle lighting</i>	5:11 pm
Shabbat, December 24	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:19 pm	Shabbat, February 11	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 6:13 pm
Friday, December 30	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:22 pm	Friday, February 17	<i>candle lighting</i>	5:20 pm
Shabbat, December 31	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:24 pm	Shabbat, February 18	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 6:22 pm
Friday, January 6	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:29 pm	Friday, February 24	<i>candle lighting</i>	5:29 pm
Shabbat, January 7	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:30 pm	Shabbat, February 25	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 6:31 pm
Friday, January 13	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:36 pm	Friday, March 3	<i>candle lighting</i>	5:37 pm
Shabbat, January 14	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:38 pm	Shabbat, March 4	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 6:39 pm
Friday, January 20	<i>candle lighting</i>	4:44 pm			
Shabbat, January 21	Shacharit <i>Shabbat ends</i>	9:30 am 5:46 pm			

Mitzvah Fund

Tova Kohn, 727-0841 or tova.kohn844@gmail.com

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazal Tov to:

Cathy Velenchik on her well-done Sisterhood Program: Krystalnacht through our Local Newspapers

Refuah Shelemah to:

Susan Hubal recovering after fall.

Len Preston continued healing after fall.

In Memory of:

Marilyn Bell's nephew, Adam

Give Double *Chai* to The *ChaiLine*

Getting the *ChaiLine* to you six times a year requires extra effort by a few people. We gladly exert this extra effort our so that you, our fellow congregants, friends, and members of the extended Beth David family can keep up with what is going on. No matter if you live near or far, once you have been a B. D. member, you are always considered a member of the family

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 or my home, along with your message, before the next deadline (2/19/23) will be most appreciated.

Happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin, *ChaiLine* coordinator

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Rita & Larry Bleier in memory of Rita's mother, **Anita Cohen**, on her Yahrzeit

Rita & Larry Bleier in memory of Larry's father, **Martin**, on his Yahrzeit

Rika & Steve Katz wish the Beth David Family a Happy Chanukah

Contributions

General Fund from:

Aaron & Miriam Alweis
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In honor of Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber -- Hollie Levine

Wishing Susan Hubal a speedy recovery:

Myra & Irving Memis

Alan & Julie Piaker

In memory of Ruth Buschman:

Dr. Gerald & Susan Hubal
Myra & Irving Memis

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Marilyn Bell

In memory of Brendan Byrnes:

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Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Michael & Susan Wright
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SISTERHOOD

Members and Friends of Sisterhood,

Much time has elapsed since the last Chailine, so I need to take care of some old business before I let you know what we have planned for the future.

First: Thank you Kiddush volunteers

Thank you Susan Hubal, Toby Kohn, Deborah Mindick, Natalie Weiss Pachter, Dora Polachek, Gina Santiago, Kathie Shelly, Judy Silber, Lori Tuberman, Saba Wiesner, Susan Wright, and everyone else who helped with the High Holiday Kiddushes this year.

Special thanks to Sheldon and Ahren Edison for donating the herring and gefilte fish, and to Marlene and Rabbi David Serkin for donating the kichel.

Thanks also to everyone who helps with the weekly Shabbos kiddushes.

Second: Sisterhood News September, October, and November 2022

Sisterhood's **September** meeting featured Dina Danon and Sima Auerbach who discussed Sephardic and Ashkenazi food customs related to Rosh ha Shanna.

In **October** we met in the Beth David sukkah where we observed the mitzvahs of lulav and esrog, and of eating in the sukkah. Judy Silber spoke about the 7 female prophetesses who are the counterparts to the traditional *ushpizen* or guests who visit us in the sukkah, and attendees made a decoration for the Sukkah.

Our **November** paid-up membership luncheon featured a wonderful meal prepared by Toby and Harold Kohn. The program was provided by Cathy Velenchik who read articles printed in the Binghamton Sun Newspaper from the week of Kristallnacht in 1938.

Also in **November**, we co-sponsored the annual Chabad Mega Challah Bake which was held at Binghamton University.

Third: Sisterhood plans for December and January

Please join us on **December 14, 2022, at 7 pm** when Beth David Sisterhood in cooperation with Beth David's Men's club will hold a **Pre- Chanukah Party** at Beth David Synagogue.

The evening is open to everyone, but since we anticipate serving latkes and other goodies, we request that you let us know in advance if you plan to attend. **Reservations should be made as soon as possible** by contacting the Beth David Synagogue office at (607) 722-1793, or by e-mailing bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

Entertainment will be provided by Jonathan Pachter, who will present a program entitled "A Celebration of the Festival of Lights" with piano selections ranging from classic to contemporary, including oldies and

We are grateful to the Eisenberg Foundation whose generosity has made it unnecessary for us to charge a fee for the evening.

Mark your calendars for **1 pm. Wednesday January 11, 2023**, when we will be privileged to host a zoom meeting from Israel featuring Dr. Miryam Brand who holds a Ph.D. in Bible and Second Temple Literature from New York University. Her topic will be "Sin in the Second Temple Period: Free Will and Determinism in the Dead Sea Scrolls." It should be a very special event.

We hope you will consider joining us at the Pre-Chanukah party in December and will participate in the January zoom presentation.

Meanwhile we wish everyone a Happy Chanukah and what we hope will be a better New Year.

Sincerely Cathy Velenchik Co-President Beth David Sisterhood

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

Gerry Hubal for substituting as *gabbai rishon* in the absence of Aaron Alweis

Our proactive Board for installing a filtering system that helps keep us all healthy

Our wonderful members who attended services and followed our requirements for social distancing and mask wearing, when necessary

Marilyn Bell and Julie Piaker for preparing the Yizkor announcements booklet

Toby Kohn and Marilyn Bell 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

Cathy Velenchik for all the shopping for the Yom Tov *kiddushim*, preparing the candles, and the many behind the scenes jobs she takes care of

Cathy Velenchik for providing the Yahrzeit candles, shopping and arranging for people to serve and clean up for the holiday *kiddushim*

Those members who come to services regularly in hopes of being part of a minyan

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

Rabbi Zev Silber for excellence in Shofar blowing

Gaby Yonaty and the other wonderful volunteers for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah and decorating it, and repairing the Sukkah after the *schach* was blown down by the wind

Rabbi Silber 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

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

Julie Piaker for taking on the responsibility of Producing the ChaiLine on the computer.

TODAH RABAH

Beth David Family

It's been a long while since our Yom Tov issue, so there's much "Family" news to report. Some of our members traveled to explore our world. Roz and Harry Wiesel took an extended road trip visiting sites throughout North America. They began in Monticello, traversed the mid-west, visited family in western Canada, drove down the Pacific coast, and then took a southern route to their south Florida home. The Sarkany family ventured to Hungary to delve into their family's past. Aniko and Andy, along with children Andrea and Greg Riskin and their grandchildren, explored the streets the Sarkanys called home in their youth. It was an enlightening journey for all three generations.

Susan and Michael Wright traveled to Toronto to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Yochanan Lebowitz. Mazel tov to the proud parents, Davida and Gavin Lebowitz, to Aunt Kerry Wright, to great-grandma Reva Greenspan, and to the extended family. From Toronto, the Wrights returned to Binghamton for a few days before they trekked to CT to spend Sukkot with their children Dmitry and Natania Ostrovosky and the grandchildren. Kerry Wright enjoyed an Italian adventure, exploring the sights of several ancient cities.

Malka and Michael Alweis welcomed a daughter, Avital Menucha, into their family. Grandparents Miriam and Aaron Alweis gladly made the trip to greet their new granddaughter in Teaneck. A few weeks later, Miriam and Aaron's road trip to Chicago was to greet their latest family member. Tova Hodaya and her parents Elisa and Melech Lapson received the Alweises with much joy. May the girls grow to Bat Mitzvah, to chuppah, and to good deeds in good health!

Saba and Michael Wiesner kvelled at the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Jasmin Wiesner-Rosales, the daughter of Cherese and Andre Rosales. Friends and family from near and far celebrated this milestone. Mazal Tov to the entire Wiesner Family. Toby and Harold Kohn enjoyed a birthday celebration of their grandson Isaac, son of Anna and Dan Kohn, in Brooklyn. The simcha was enhanced by the custom cake grandpa Harold designed and baked. *Kol Hakavod* to Josh Strulowitz on earning his PhD. Mazal Tov to him and to Bethany and to her parents Rita and Larry Bleier.

Dora and Sol Polachek recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A touching tribute, *A Head of His Time: The Life and Legacy of the Meitscheter Illui, Rav Shlomo Polachek*, was recently published in *Mishpacha* magazine. I can't do justice to the brilliance of this man, Sol Polachek's grandfather, but at age twelve he was already called *illui*, genius. Here's the link to the article <https://mishpacha.com/a-head-of-his-time-the-life-and-times-of-the-meitscheter-illui-rav-shlomo-polachek/> for those of you who would like to read it.

Refuah shelemah to Susan Hubal and to Chaim Joy.

With sadness I note the passing of Numa Lavy, the mother of Eileen Miller. Condolences are sent to Eileen, her husband Dan, to her father Richard Lavy and to the children Alex, Brian, and Cara.

I note the passing of Brendan Brynes, a recent member of our Beth David Family. Condolences are sent to his wife Hollie Levine and to their extended family.

We mourn the passing of Ruth Buschman, a long time Beth David member, and send condolences to her children Suzy Erez and Steven Buschman and their families. Ruth, a Holocaust survivor, participated in an oral history project in 2022. You can access the interview by searching for "Ruth Buschman Holocaust" or by going to <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn514201>

May the Almighty console each of the families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Please remember to keep me posted about your family's happenings. I'm at msasnowitz@gmail.com and (607) 760-5207

As the lights flicker on our Chanukah menorahs, we remember the inner strength and belief our Maccabees possessed as they conquered a greater force. Let's pray for our brethren in the Ukraine who are struggling for their freedom, and our fellow Jews in Eretz Yisroel who are seeking peace.

Meryl Sasnowitz