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CHALINE

“The Bulletin of Beth David Synagogue”

VOLUME LX, ISSUE 2

Chanukah, December 2018-5779

FROM THE RABBI

The second blessing that we recite when lighting the Chanukah candles is “*she’asa nissin la’atoveinu bayamim hahem baseman hazeh*”. We praise God for the miracles that he did for our ancestors in those days at this season. We usually translate the word “*nes*” as miracle, and we usually define a miracle as something that defies nature. This blessing obviously refers to the miracle of the oil, that the quantity of oil found in the rededicated holy Temple was only sufficient to light the menorah for one day, and lasted for eight days.

The blessing, however, says “*nisim*” – miracles, in the plural. What other miracle occurred at that time?

The word *nes* has another meaning, as well. *Nes* also means a banner, or a flag. This is the meaning that it has in the *Amida* when we say “*v’sa nes l’kabetz galuyoteinu*” – raise a banner to gather together our scattered people. A raised banner tells people where to get together for a special event. In the *Amida* we are referring to gathering together to return to Israel from the diaspora. In the time of Chanukah it meant to gather together to defend our nation and fight to free ourselves from the tyranny and oppression.

The victory of the battle of the Maccabees can be viewed as a great strategic success, where the poorly armed and barely trained and greatly outnumbered forces of the Jews were able to defeat the mighty Syrian-Greek army and regain our national independence.

Yet, in designing the blessing in the plural, our rabbis are teaching us that this victory was also a miraculous event. Even though it is possible for a smaller armed force to defeat a stronger one, this time it was truly something that defied nature and was only possible because of a miracle by God.

The message of Chanukah for us today is that we should realize that even things that are possible naturally are really due to the miraculous intervention of God in our lives. We are blessed with so much good that we sometimes take it for granted. When we think of all our good fortune, we should recognize that according to the rules of nature it could have just as easily been the opposite. We need to recognize the miracles that God does for us each and every day and thank Him for them.

As we light the Chanukah candles, let us not only recall the events of ancient history, but also praise God for His goodness to us and the miracles that he performs for us and our loved ones.

I wish you a Chanukah *Sameach!*

Rabbi Zev Silber

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When we celebrate Chanukah this year it will be different because our hearts are with the community of The Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. The families that lost loved ones will not be able to celebrate Chanukah with the same spirit as in other years. The Jewish Communities across our entire country have been impacted by this tragedy, and we are all scrambling to do what we can to take precautions from G-d forbid another tragic event.

The very next day after the assault on the Pittsburgh Synagogue I spoke with the officer from the anti-terrorist unit, we met on Monday at Beth David and assessed our situation.

Last year we purchased 5 panic buttons that are placed all over the building and for the past two weeks we have a policeman that has been at the Shul during services on Saturday thanks to one of our members who wishes to remain anonymous. At our next board meeting we will discuss other measures that we can possibly include as precautions. If you have an idea that you would like to share with us please let me know.

We will send a letter or email to all of our members so that you will know what to expect to keep safety as our foremost concern. Please do not hesitate to call me with anything unusual that you might see as I am in contact with the police on an ongoing basis.

With my best wishes for a Happy Chanukah!

Saba Wiesner, President



Chanukah Customs and Practices

When: Chanukah begins on Sunday, December 2nd at night. The last candle is lit on Sunday night, December 9th and the holiday ends at nightfall on Monday, December 10th.

Work is permitted on Chanukah (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 Chanukah, there is a custom to partake of latkes and jelly donuts. Children have a custom to play dreidel and other games related to Chanukah.

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. On the Shabbat that coincides with Chanukah, which is also Rosh Chodesh, we read from 3 Torah scrolls and a special *Haftarah* for Chanukah. Sunday, December 9 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 (5:14 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 5:44 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 Chanukah: On Friday night, December 7th we light 6 candles (plus the *shamash*). Chanukah candles **must** be lit **before** Shabbat candles, before 4:13 PM. Enough oil or large candles must be used so that they remain lit until at least 5:44 PM. **On Saturday night, December 8th** we must light **after** Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:14 PM. It is customary to recite *havdalah* at home before lighting the Chanukah candles.

Travelers: If you are on the road, you are still required to light Chanukah candles. Please consult the rabbi for details and how you can observe the mitzvah.

NOVEMBER—MARCH MINYAN TIMES

MORNINGS (times constant)

Sunday	8:30am
Monday – Friday	7:00 am
<i>Except January 7; February 5,6:</i>	6:50 am
<i>Except November 22-23; December 25;</i>	
<i>January 1; February 18; March 7,8:</i>	8:30 am
Shabbat	9:00 am
Shabbat Mincha	after Kiddush
<i>For Maariv - see below</i>	

EVENINGS (times constant)

Monday – Thursday	7:00 pm
<i>Except December 18:</i>	4:05 pm
<i>Except November 22; December 25:</i>	4:20 pm
<i>Except January 1:</i>	4:30 pm

EVENINGS (times vary)

Friday, November 16	4:25 pm
Shabbat, November 17	5:45 pm
Sunday, November 18	4:25 pm
Thursday - Friday, November 22-23	4:20 pm
Shabbat, November 24	5:40 pm
Sunday, November 25	4:20 pm
Friday, November 30	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 1	5:35 pm
Sunday, December 2	4:20 pm
Friday, December 7	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 8	5:35 pm
Sunday, December 9	4:15 pm
Friday, December 14	4:15 pm
Shabbat, December 15	5:35 pm
Sunday, December 16	4:20 pm
Tuesday, December 18	4:05 pm
Friday, December 21	4:20 pm
Shabbat, December 22	5:40 pm
Sunday, December 23	4:20 pm

Tuesday, December 25

Friday, December 28	4:25 pm
Shabbat, December 29	5:45 pm
Sunday, December 30	4:25 pm
Tuesday, January 1	4:30 pm
Friday, January 4, 2019	4:30 pm
Shabbat, January 5	5:50 pm
Sunday, January 6	4:30 pm
Friday, January 4, 2019	4:30 pm
Shabbat, January 5	5:50 pm
Sunday, January 6	4:30 pm
Friday, January 11	4:35 pm
Shabbat, January 12	5:55 pm
Sunday, January 13	4:40 pm
Friday, January 18	4:45 pm
Shabbat, January 19	6:05 pm
Sunday, January 20	4:50 pm
Friday, January 25	4:55 pm
Shabbat, January 26	6:15 pm
Sunday, January 27	4:55 pm
Friday, February 1	5:00 pm
Shabbat, February 2	6:25 pm
Sunday, February 3	5:05 pm
Friday, February 8	5:10 pm
Shabbat, February 9	6:30 pm
Sunday, February 10	5:15 pm
Friday, February 15	5:20 pm
Shabbat, February 16	6:40 pm
Sunday, February 17	5:25 pm
Friday, February 22	5:30 pm
Shabbat, February 23	6:50 pm
Sunday, February 24	5:30 pm
Friday, March 1	5:35 pm
Shabbat, March 2	7:00 pm
Sunday, March 3	5:40 pm
Friday, March 8	5:45 pm
Shabbat, March 9	7:05 pm



SISTERHOOD

On Wednesday evening, November 14, Sisterhood held its annual Paid-up meeting. Those who paid all their financial obligations to Sisterhood were entitled to a free dinner.

The dinner, prepared by Susan Hubal and her committee, was delicious and enjoyed by all. Following the dinner the raffle was held. The evening did not have a formal program and we all enjoyed "schmoozing."

Please support the contributors of the raffle prizes: Price Rite, Price Chopper, Wegmans, Wal-mart, Weis Markets, Leroy Package Store, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Resciniti Cleaners. We wish them a large thank you; they have contributed our prizes for many years.

Thanks to all who contributed their time and efforts to make the evening a success.

The next Sisterhood meeting is scheduled to be held on December 5. at 6:30pm. It will be a Chanukah program . More information will follow.

A happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin, co-President

Sponsors of Sisterhood Paid-up Dinner Raffle

Wegman's

Wal-mart

Leroy Package Store

Bed Bath & Beyond

Resciniti Cleaners

Price Rite

Price Chopper

Weis Market

How to Contact Your Rabbi

Rabbi Silber's office hours will be: Tuesdays, 10:00 am -12:00 noon.

Please feel free to stop by at these times, even without an appointment. If you need to consult with the rabbi and these times are not convenient for you, please call Rabbi Silber and you can work out a mutually acceptable time.

Occasionally these hours need to change, and changes are listed in the weekly announcement sheet distributed each Shabbat at services.

If you need to contact the rabbi, there are several ways that this can be done:

- Call the shul office (722-1793) and leave a message

If it is not urgent, you can e-mail the rabbi at rabbisilber@stny.rr.com

In case of emergency, you can call or text the rabbi's cell phone: Rabbi Silber can be reached at 607-761-7098.

THANKS TO

Moshe Shmaryahu for the beautiful *tefillot*

Aaron Alweis for arranging all the honors, his excellent work as *gabbai*, expertly finding replacements for planned honors, and changing the ark curtains and Torah covers

Leonard Preston for handling the seating arrangements for the Yom Tovim

Cathy Velenchik for the Yizkor announcements

Lillian Zodikoff 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

The women of Sisterhood for supplying, enhancing, and/or presenting the holiday and Shabbat *kiddushim*, break-the-fast, and Yom Tov candles

Marlene Serkin for all the shopping for the Yom Tov *kiddushim*, preparing the candles, putting out the break-the-fast and the many behind the scenes jobs she takes care of

Cathy Velenchik for shopping and arranging for people to serve and clean up for the holiday *kiddushim*

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

Rabbi Zev Silber for excellence in Shofar blowing

Arieh Ullmann for keeping the Beth David website (BethDavid.org) up to date with minyan times, the *ChaiLine*, and anything else that is necessary

Sheldon and Ahren Edison for donating the herring for the *kiddushim* in memory of Sheldon's parents and wife (Ahren's grandparents and mother) and in honor of our *gabbai*, Aaron Alweis

Paula and Charles Rubin for donating the kichel in memory of their beloved son, Stephen

The Chevra Kadisha for sponsoring the Shimini Atzeret Kiddush

Gabi Yonaty, Charlie Manasse, Bob Kutz, Arieh Ullmann for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah

The Shabbat luncheon sponsors and speakers throughout the year

Judy Silber for all the time and effort she puts into the monthly Shabbat luncheons

Dora Polachek for arranging for the interesting speakers for the Shabbat luncheons

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

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 supplying and serving the refreshments at the board meetings, and for all her time and efforts in overseeing the new kitchen

An anonymous donor for paying for a security guard for Beth David on Shabbat during the month of November

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

TODAH

RABAH

Beth David Family

Mazal Tov to:

Shmuel and Marion Morell, who became great-grandparents. Eitan and Varda's son Dovid and Naama had a girl. The new baby's name is Chava Shandle.

Craig and Andra Goldman on the birth of a granddaughter, Shifra. Parents are Avi-gayil and Michael Goldman.

Marlene Serkin, on the engagement of her son Paul to Susan Rubin. A late spring wedding is planned.

Marion Rudin on the birth of a great grandson; grandparents are Sue Feuerstein & Louis Rudin.

Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu on the recent birth of a grandchild, Ella Ariel in Israel. Parents are Yona Chen (who was born in Binghamton) and Shoval Ben-Shushan.

Naomi Staiman who recently welcomed her 46th great grandchild, Itri Oshri Staiman. Itri, the grandson of Jeremy & Chana, is the first great grandson to carry on the Staiman name.

Travels and sundry news:

Meir Sommer, grandson of Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz and current student of Binghamton University, auditioned for and was accepted into Kaskeset, the university's only Jewish *cappella* group. He's thrilled about the experience. Yehuda Sommer joined Meir for Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah at Binghamton University. Meanwhile, I joined the rest of the Sommer family for the last days of Yom Tov, in Passaic. I also had the pleasure of joining other friends in Passaic for a couple of meals in and out of the sukkah and partook in some edifying conversations.

Kerry Wright recently returned from a 3 week visit to friends in Israel.

Norman Stillman now lives in Israel.

Toby & Harold Kohn are spending several weeks in Israel.

Susan and Michael Wright made a trip to Florida.

Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine went to Portugal.

Rivky Slonim made a weekend trip to Columbia, South America, for the *upshernin* (first haircut) of her grandson, Mendy, son of Yehuda and Chaya Slonim.

Glad to see the following up and around having recovered from their surgery: Aaron Alweis – shoulder, Marilyn Bell – knee, and Rhonda Levine – hip.

Beth David Family Continued

Refuah Shelemah to Charles Gilinsky, who recently broke his ankle.

Last, but not least: condolences to the family of David Kammerman, who passed away peacefully in his home on September 28. David battled cancer for five years.

Please remember to notify me of any happenings in the Beth David Family.

Gina Santiago

High Holiday Kiddush Thanks

Even though the High Holidays seem far in the past, this is the first opportunity for the Congregation, Sisterhood, and I to publicly thank everyone who shopped, donated food, prepared, set up and cleaned up after any Holiday kiddush.

As always, our biggest thanks go to Marlene Serkin for doing most of the shopping and menu planning. Our appreciation also goes to Sheldon Edison and Ahren Edison, who donated the herring in memory of their wife and mother respectively, and Dr. Charles and Paula Rubin who donated the kichel in memory of their beloved son Stephen. Also, thanks to the Chevra Kadisha for helping to sponsor the kiddushim.

This year nearly everyone listed deserve double thanks because they volunteered to help more than once due to our dwindling numbers. Volunteers were:

Elisa Alweis, Gina Glasman, Susan Hubal, Toby Kohn, Dora Polachek, Valerie Preston, Marlene Serkin, Kathie Shelly, Judy Silber, Lillian Sommer, Samantha Tuberman, Saba Wiesner, and Marcy Yonaty.

Apologies to anyone whose name may have been left off the list. Many thanks also to those not officially scheduled to help (including spouses) who pitched in and helped whenever needed.

Sincerely,

Cathy Velenchik, Sisterhood Service VP

P.S. Special thanks to Cathy Velenchik from all of us, for all the time and effort she puts in, and for the great job she always does on the holiday kiddushim and any job she takes on.

Thanks to the Sponsors of this Issue:

Aaron Alweis thanking everyone for their prayers and good wishes for his recovery

Cathy Velenchik and Chaim Joy in memory of **Rose Mallinger**, age 97, victim of the Pittsburgh Tree of Life mass murder, who was the aunt of our dear friend Lynda Moidel

Marcy and Gabi Yonaty in memory of **Rita Rozen**

Steven and Rika Katz wishing all our Beth David friends a Happy Chanukah

ADULT CLASS – JEWISH HISTORY TO BE OFFERED

Judy Silber will be giving a class on Jewish history once a month, starting Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. The topics will begin with the time of the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David and then follow chronologically. Those who register at the first class will be able to receive a free copy of the NJOP (National Jewish Outreach Program) Jewish history text. There will be a charge of \$8 per session. If you are interested in attending, please call or text Judy Silber at 761-0944

Give Double *Chai*

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 so that you, our fellow congregants and friends, can keep up with what is going on at Beth David Synagogue and what members of the Beth David family are up to. Remember, once you have been a member of Beth David, you are always considered a member of the Beth David 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 before the next deadline (3/3/19) will be most appreciated.

Happy Chanukah to all.

Marlene Serkin

Contributions

General Fund from:

Stephen & Elaine Meltzer in honor of Gerry Hubal's 80th Birthday
Ruth Goldstein In honor of great niece Kayla, who made it to college in spite of some obstacles
Ruth Goldstein in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Brendon Byrnes
Leonard & Valerie Preston wishing Mark Yonaty a Refuah Shelemah
Rita Shawn in honor of Cathy Velenchik
Marvin Kaplan thanking Rabbi Silber for blowing the shofar for me
Karen & Arthur Noss in appreciation for the hospitality and kindness showed to their son, Nate
Louis & Maxine Rosenberg in honor of the marriage of Rachel Bell & Michael Fineman
Alex Gabay in appreciation of his time at Beth David during the holidays
Sheldon Edison in appreciation of the hospitality of the Hubals & Silbers
Neisen & Marsha Luks in honor of the marriage of Rachel Bell & Michael Fineman
Susan & Charles Gilinsky in honor of the birthday of Arie Ullmann
Brendan Byrnes in honor of the 60th anniversary of Arie Ullmann's Bar Mitzvah

Debra & Alan Wenig	Debbie Grier	Dr. Steven & Rebecca Katz
Carolyn Kutz	Brian & Lori Tuberman	Mark Yonaty
Paul Terman	Elaine Green	Dr. Thomas Theise
Rhoda Ullmann	Saba & Michael Wiesner	Brendan Byrnes
David & Virginia Eisenberg Fund		Victor & Esther Rozen Foundation

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund from:

Susan Hubal, Joan Jacobson, Myra Memis & Ellen Shaw in honor of the marriage of Rachel Bell
Michael & Saba Wiesner in honor of mother, Doris Zolty's date of birth
Joyce Harary in memory of her husband, Jack Harary
Ben & Max Harary in memory of Jack Harary
Brian & Lori Harary in memory of Jack Harary

Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz	Lillian Zodikoff	Drs. Sol & Dora Polachek
Ruth Goldstein	Eileen Miller	Katherine Shelly

Ilene Goldman Scholarship Fund from:

Neal & Marilyn Gordon	Walter & Vivian Stuart	Edward & Ruth Sacher
Shelly Goldman Black		Craig Goldman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Leonard & Valerie Preston	Nancy Basmann
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This message is not approved by anybody.

Regardless of your party affliction/affiliation, or none.

You Are Invited...

THE EVENT:

BREAKFAST

WHEN: 10:10AM – Sunday - December 16

(Note: For those of you who sometimes arrive at events ten minutes late, think of it as ten o'clock. That way you will be on time. Read the above time again so you don't forget.)

WHERE:

Beth David Synagogue
39 Riverside Drive

WHO:

By the Beth David Men's Group

WHAT:

From my perspective, and like beauty, perspective is in the eye of the beholder/perceiver, this feast gets my vote. It will satisfy your ballot, or I mean palette. On the party platform/platter; lox on the right, bagels & cream cheese on the left and various riders in the middle. Charlie's self-proclaimed celebrity world famous tuna, egg, mac, pecan, cranberry salad w/secret spices will make an appearance and have the pundits punding. Mini-pancakes to satisfy your craving. Scrambled eggs that do a great impersonation of an omelet. If elected, this breakfast promises not to tax you but insures that as a single payer (\$9) you are eligible to receive all of the benefits herein offered. If you volunteer to help, since you receive no pay other than knowing you have done a good deed, your Soc Sec will not be compromised in any way. And of course, brewed coffee. If requested in advance, special dietary requests may be honored, or not. Other incumbent favorites have been nominated and will be present. As a special seasonal item, *latkes* as your bubbie used to make... she would be so proud... eat, eat!!!

We do not accept credit cards. ~~\$9.00~~ cash or good check 'entitles' you to this first class presentation. Specifically cooked egg orders are available, as long as they are in the wanna-be-chef's limited range and he is in a good mood. For \$180 become a sponsor, includes 20 breakfasts. No restrictions apply, no additional fees or shipping charges.

Register/reserve by December 13, or sooner. We buy the food on Thurs. We want to have enough food for everyone. Arrive early for minyan and join "The Minyanaires." Send or bring \$9.00/person (includes all applicable taxes and gratuity). So call me 765-3304 and let me know.

Always Serving: Good food and Good schmooze

10:10AM -- Sunday -- December 16

CALL: Charlie, 765-3304

