



CONGREGATION BETH DAVID VIRTUAL SHABBAT

**Saturday, May 2nd
10:30 AM**

<https://fieldtripzoom.zoom.us/my/inkthinktank>
Meeting ID: 364-865-8278

Dear Friends,

Today, Wednesday, April 29th is *Yom Haatsmaut (Israel Independence Day)*. At our service on **Saturday morning, May 2nd at 10:30am**, we will share prayers, poems, and songs expressing our love and support of Israel. The Torah portion is **Aharei Mot - Kedoshim** (literally, "after the death, holiness"), an apt description of the times in which we live. We look forward to seeing many of you online. Please stay well, healthy and safe...

For those of you not yet familiar with the Zoom App please feel free to contact Jean at jeanreynolds33@gmail.com (email), (203) 788 8080 (cell), or (203) 748 4589 (home).

Thank you.

Rabbi Jon Haddon

What a Difference a Year Makes!



Left: *Passover 2019*



Right: *Passover 2020*

TriCornerNews

from The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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Original article can be viewed [here](#).*

Temple Beth David celebrates Passover during pandemic

April 15, 2020 by KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — After adjusting a few traditional elements in adherence to the coronavirus health crisis, Congregation Beth David invited its congregants to celebrate Passover via Zoom on Wednesday evening, April 8.

As written in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament, the history behind Passover began with the Israelites' freedom from slavery in Egypt, according to www.time.com. Observed over the course of eight days, the celebration is meant to serve as a remembrance of Jewish history, freedom and family, all of which are commemorated during a traditional feast known as the Seder. This year, Passover began at sundown on Wednesday, April 8, and will end at sundown on Thursday, April 16.

Under normal circumstances, Congregation Beth David, located at 3344 East Main St. in Amenia, traditionally gathers together at the synagogue to celebrate Passover, in addition to celebrating at home with the Seder.

Yet as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and in observance of social distancing regulations, Beth David could not hold services at the synagogue this year.

"We're just following the guidelines that the whole world seems to be following," said Congregation Beth David President Bil Ehrlich.

Nevertheless, the synagogue was able to celebrate Passover on Wednesday evening. Beginning at 5 p.m., the temple held Passover services via Zoom, nearly 50 "attended" from the comfort of their homes, according to Ehrlich.

Rabbi Jon Haddon led the congregation through the different blessings and discussed the history of Passover. Though they were unable to convene in person to take part in a traditional Seder, participants hosted Seder in their individual homes.

"I think it went very, very well," Haddon said. "It was wonderful for me to see my congregation and I think good for them to see me, and a good time was had by all of us."

"It was very touching because everybody was aware of these unusual circumstances," Ehrlich agreed.

Meanwhile, in Wassaic, the World Peace Sanctuary invited local community members to join together for a World Peace Prayer Ceremony via conference call on Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m.

"Now more than ever is the time to come together," World Peace Sanctuary Business Administrator Ann Marie Robustelli wrote in an email. "The essence of the words, 'May Peace Prevail On Earth' is to unify humankind..."

"Setting our intentions is one of the most powerful ways we can get through these challenging times," Robustelli added. "Every day, we are all affected by what is going on around the globe, but rather than us all waiting for the world to come together for us, we must all come together for the world."

Board of Directors

A Note From Our President, Bil Ehrlich:

I'm pleased to announce our congregant, Amy Goldberger, has agreed to join the Board of Congregation Beth David. She brings to this position a great deal of knowledge and wisdom derived from her in-depth experience at Central Synagogue in New York City. She served on Central's Board for nine years, and is also Chairman of their Ritual Committee and their Archives Office. She currently serves as a Docent at Central Synagogue and contributed to their 180th Anniversary by rediscovering archival material from its founding in 1839. Please join me in welcoming Amy.



Above is a photo of Amy (*left*) and Rabbi Priesand. Amy Goldberger is also on the Eastern Board of Overseers of HUC-JIR, the Reform movement's seminary. This photo is a picture of Amy and the Rabbi, taken during the installation of the new President of the school in Cincinnati.





On March 7th, 2020 Congregation Beth David had an in-person, not socially distanced, SHABBAT SERVICE to celebrate our Spring Reopening with the Festival of Purim. Rabbi Haddon and his wife Jean interpreted (in various costumes) the Megillah from the Book of Esther. The oneg was hosted by Bil Ehrlich and Ruth Lloyds. Little did we know what was lurking around the corner...COVID-19. We look forward to returning to real services when it is safe to do so.

Food Pantry



At our last Shabbat Service our former president, Sherry Frankel, posed the question, "How can we help the Amenia Union Food Pantry?" which is sponsored by the local Episcopal Church. Stewart Rosen brought up the point that they are in need of **gas cards** more than food at the present time. As a Congregation, Beth David has made a generous contribution to the Pantry that they can distribute as needed. If you would also like to make a personal contribution, please contact Lauren Rosen at lsrosen@att.net.

Meditation Room



Before



After

The above pictures clearly show the progress and cleanup that was made to the office and spare room upstairs in our synagogue. This will be the new, dedicated space for our Meditation Class, run by Carol Ascher. Obviously, class will not be held until it is safe to resume.