

News & Notes



Congregation Beth David

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Rabbi's Message – News and Notes



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that another wonderful year together has passed. Our final worship service for this year will be this coming Shabbat, December 22nd, at 10:30am.

The torah portion for this shabbat is "Vayechi," which tells of the last period of Jacob's life. These must have been the happiest years of Jacob's life, for he has been reunited with his beloved son, Joseph. My sermon is entitled "Remembering Stan Lee." We are extremely grateful to Stewart and Lauren Rosen who will be hosting our Oneg Shabbat. Following the Oneg we will conclude our study of "Mussar" literature with the chapter on "Honor," an appropriate topic for the tumultuous times in which we live. I (we) look forward to seeing many of you.

For those of you who wish to meditate before services, please enter the Sanctuary at 10:10 am, as Carol Ascher will lead us.



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Board of Directors' Message

Aristotle said, "If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

Until now, Sherry Frankel, our revered president for the last five years has almost single handedly carried the responsibility of growing Beth David. Under her leadership the membership has grown, we've PLANNED wonderful events, contractors have been hired and projects and repairs have been COMPLETED. Sherry, along with our incoming president, Bil Ehrlich helped with the restoration of the sanctuary, THE KITCHEN, and the community room.

Now that Sherry is retiring, and fortunately, still remaining on the board, it is incumbent upon members of the congregation to share in these responsibilities. Please contact us at info@bethdavid.org and let us know where your interests and abilities lie.

Sherry, we can't thank you enough for all you have done. You have worked tirelessly to make Beth David what it is today.

Our last service for the year is on December 22nd, so now is the time to wish one and all a very warm and happy winter.

This Spring, we will joyously be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of Beth David. Mark your calendars and save the date for this gala event on May 18, 2019 at the Sharon County Club.

Congregation Beth David 90th Anniversary Gala

Dear Beth David Members,

As a fellow congregant I have volunteered to oversee the journal for our May 18, 2019 Gala at the Sharon County Club. In order to raise as much money as possible for Beth David we need everyone to solicit local businesses and personally have you ask any one you think will advertise. Please call, mail or show up in person and hand out this COVER LETTER & CONTRACT FORM to as many people as you can. Think about all the local businesses that you're affiliated with and ask them to advertise. You can print out both PDF's by clicking on the link below. We will also have some available at the final service on 12/22/18.

This form is only for businesses. If you want to personally take out a page or portion of one for a tribute or anything else you might like to say, I will be sending out prices and options at a later date along with an order form for Gala tickets. Please email me if you have questions pertaining to this.

Thanks for your help and let's raise as much money as we can for this wonderful occasion.

Ruth Lloyds

lloydsruth@gmail.com

[DOWNLOAD COVER LETTER AND CONTRACT FORM HERE](#)

Memorial Wall



During the winter break we will be creating a beautiful new Memorial Wall for the back of the sanctuary. This wall will be on both sides of the entrance doorway and go from chair rail to ceiling and corner to corner. The entire custom wood wall will be stained the same color as our new 'old' pews and have individual recessed spaces to accommodate the existing bronze plaques as well as new ones. A continuous light soffit at the top of the wall will allow the wall to be illuminated for appropriate memorial events. The new wall will be completed during our winter break and there will be a re-dedication event planned to be combined with a service in the Spring. We will announce the date of the event in the near future.

A letter and order form will be going out to members giving everyone time to purchase plaques for loved ones to be incorporated into the wall in time for the dedication event. The cost of these custom bronze plaques will be \$300 each and they will be the same size as the existing ones. Plaques may be added at any time in the future as well.

Retirement Announcement from Sherry Frankel



Congregation Beth David
3344 East Main Street
PO Box 125
Amenia, NY 12501
CongBethDavid.org

December 10, 2018

Dear Member,

It is with great pleasure that I have served our congregation for the last years. In 2013, when I became Treasurer and reviewed the financials, it became apparent to me that membership had waned and dues were no longer sufficient to cover even the regular operating expenses. As I spent more and more time in the Beth David office, it next became apparent that the building was in dire need of restoration! Thanks to my 35-year real estate career and expertise in property management, I felt confidently suited to take on the restoration of our little jewel of a shul adding the Presidency as well.

It's been a labor of love, thanks to so many valuable members and friends like you who have caught my spirit for our cherished Beth David! Much has been accomplished with membership bursting at the seams and the building significantly restored. I feel great personal satisfaction from the achievements. This of course has not occurred solely by my initiatives but as a joint effort of our great Board of Directors. And with that in mind I am so very pleased to give others the opportunity to take on my roles and enjoy the benefits of what they, with your continued support, can achieve for us all.

That said, effective February 1, 2019 I will be officially stepping down as President and Treasurer but remaining a member of the Board. In doing so I am so very pleased to advise you of our next slate of Beth David officers:

Bil Ehrlich, President
Eve Propp and Stewart Rosen, Co-Vice Presidents
Paul Alter, Treasurer

Finally, while they will not be Board members, Carol Kalikow and Ruth Lloyds, have agreed to serve as Co- Social Secretaries to continue to plan our rich programming.

In closing, during this season of giving I would be remiss if I did not urge you to put Congregation Beth David on the top of your list for continued support with a 2018 year end donation. Yes, much has been accomplished; however, we are certainly facing more required improvements. Thank you in advance for your dedication and generosity.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Sherry Frankel
President

Events



Our Hanukkah event took place on Saturday December 8th - the seventh night.

The Rabbi started with a lovely Havdalah service. Congregants read from the service and lit the 7 Chanukah candles in the sanctuary. It was a wonderfully lively night with more than 45 in attendance - young and old. Five students from Maplewood School, a teacher and her daughter from Hotchkiss (there would have been more students but there were exams on the 10th!) and so many congregants and friends.

After Havdalah we all converged in the community room and enjoyed a fantastic Potluck dinner including a cheese and fruit platter, SUSHI!, Brisket, Latkes, Chicken, lots of veggies, noodle kugel, salad, fresh fruit and of course Jelly Doughnuts (and Hanukkah cake and cookies). (PS. Everyone brought their "A" game!). The highlight of the evening was when the Rabbi dimmed the lights and we lit all of the menorahs in the room - so beautiful!

Many thanks to Carol Kalikow who orchestrated the entire event, to Lauren and Stewart Rosen for helping to organize a VERY successful drive benefitting the Amenia Food Pantry, and to Carol Ascher for helping to coordinate. The original plan was to have a Toy drive but the Pantry suggested that it would be kinder to raise the funds to purchase gift cards to the Dollar store so that the parents could purchase gifts themselves. We raised \$660 which will allow us to purchase cards for the 56 kids currently in the program.

It was a warm and welcoming evening at Beth David. Something we can all be proud of.





The Aglet Theatre Company on Saturday November 17th performed SELECTED JEWISH SHORTS. 45 members and guests enjoyed this dramatic reading that was performed by Macey Levin and Thomas Gruenewald. Wine and cheese, cake and coffee were served and everyone enjoyed this theatrical event.



You, too, can sponsor an Oneg. (See below.)



Children are always welcome and part of the service at any age. One of our youngest congregants is Michael Barley Kushner who is enjoying the Rabbi's song with his parents Chris Barley and Marc Kushner.



Labor Day Annual Hazon Bike Ride Beth David Rest Stop

How You Can Help Right Now...

We need your help. No job is too big or small.

We Need You! And we need your ideas! We'd love to hear your suggestions for programs and events you would be glad to support, attend, or even host. Movie night? Art shows? Baking contests? We need input from members in order to get our planning started! Email us at info@congbethdavid.org with your idea.

Do you have a story to share? We would all love to hear why you have decided to make a commitment to our synagogue community. Please send it to us at info@congbethdavid.org.

A number of elderly Jews, who are not necessarily members of our synagogue, live in the woods of Litchfield County in northwest Connecticut and New York's Dutchess and Columbia Counties. Some of our Beth David members and friends have formed a Care Committee and have been checking on these people especially during the winter months. If you would be interested in helping please contact Carol Ascher at ascher.carol@gmail.com.



Your Oneg Shabbat

It's not too early to mark your calendars! We are seeking Oneg Shabbat sponsorships for 2019 (see "Schedule" on the website/in the newsletter for regular Shabbat dates) and would very much appreciate your participation. If you wish to host an Oneg to mark a special occasion, or you're just feeling generous, please contact Lauren Rosen at lsrosen@att.net or 203.417.7307. We provide all paper goods and utensils; we count on you for food, a few soft drinks, and a small bottle of Manischewitz wine. Thanks for your thoughtfulness.

For those who prefer catering assistance for an Oneg, we offer the following suggestions:

The Great Barrington Bagel Company & Deli

Finish these offerings with a delicious assortment of our famous homemade Ruggaleah, imported N.Y. Chocolate Babka and Crumbcakes.

www.gbbagel.com



THE GREAT BARRINGTON
BAGEL COMPANY & DELI

McEnroe Organic Farm Market

Our new market offerings reflect McEnroe Organic Farm's mission of growing high-quality produce and livestock, while committing to protect habitat for local wildlife. Our foods are sourced from our own farm and from local purveyors, and our kitchen menu is updated to highlight our own produce, to ensure consistent quality and seasonal offerings.

www.mcenroeorganicfarm.com



Back in the Kitchen

Twelve seat cafe filled with YUMMY sweets, savories, coffee, tea and prepared food to go.

www.facebook.com/backinthekitchen



Foodtown of Amenia

Full Service Deli Department featuring Boars Head Brand Meats and Cheese, Meat Department, Fresh Produce Department, Dairy Department, Frozen Food Department, and Seafood Department.

www.foodtown.com/stores/freshtown-of-amenia



Food Donation

The large basket you now see in our kitchen gives our members a permanent way to contribute to the food pantry's donation wish list at the Food of Life Pantry at St. Thomas in Armenia. Just bring a bag of necessities the next time you come (a list is attached to the basket) and we will deliver the bags when the basket is full. Through our efforts at Congregation Beth David, we will be feeding those in need one bag at a time.

Congregation Beth David will be collecting the following:

***non-perishable food,
personal care products,
household cleaning products,
and paper goods.***



Please bring your contributions into the kitchen. The goods will be contributed to the Food of Life Pantry at St. Thomas in Amenia.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Letter from Food of Life Pantry at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Amenia Union

September 19, 2018

Temple Beth David
120-3 prospect St.
Ridgefield, CT06877
Lauren Rosen

Dear Congregants,

Greetings from the Food of Life pantry at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Amenia Union! Hi, I'm Denis Freeman, the person that runs the pantry (with many, many volunteers). I'm grateful for the opportunities to meet so many kind, generous and caring people. Lauren, her family and congregation Beth David are among those that care enough to take action!

Thank you all for your generous contribution of food. After a brief tour of our pantry, Lauren and her family asked how they can be more effective at providing the most needed items for our pantry. Of course needs vary for our clients but there are some things that are always needed. Tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned and dry beans, coffee, toothpaste, and toothbrushes are among the most needed items. Just think as if you were setting up an emergency food supply in your basement. Basic needs, non-perishable, nutritious and all in small packages, so nothing goes to waste.

I've only been running the pantry for about 8 months but in that time we have distributed over 20,000 lbs. of non-perishable food, plus all the produce that comes from our garden and the gardens of our neighbors! Our neighbors and businesses have been and continue to be very generous. We have about 40 families that we serve on a regular basis and many more families, every so often. Many are working and still need some help. Our goal is to serve people in a way that is dignified, non-discriminatory, and caring. It's really quite simple. Once people secure food for their families, they can then begin to face all the other challenges in their lives.

There is so much more I want to share with you. But for now, let it be said; you are making a real impact in the lives of your neighbors! The families we serve are a constant reminder of just how fragile life can be and how donating to the pantry can impact those that receive and those that give. Thank you!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denis P. Freeman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shabbat Morning Meditation

Beth David now offers a 20-minute meditation in the sanctuary, from 10am-10:20, prior to Shabbat services. The meditation is a quieting practice, in which you will also have an opportunity to focus on a virtue you'd like to strengthen. The meditation was created by Rabbi Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira (1899-1943), an extraordinary Polish Hassidic teacher, leader, practitioner and innovator.

Rabbi Shapira founded one of the largest yeshivot in inter-war Poland. Caught up in the Nazi invasion, R. Shapira refused to leave his flock and was forced into the Warsaw Ghetto, where he was an important spiritual leader. He managed to bury a cache of his writings in the ghetto prior to his deportation to the Trawniki labor camp in the spring of 1943. In Trawniki, he again refused an offer of escape in order to support his people; he was murdered by the SS in early November 1943.



The meditation is led by Carol Ascher, who is in her second year of training in spiritual direction at NYU's Hebrew Union College. Carol learned the quieting practice of R. Shapira from Rabbi Jonathan Slater, a scholar of Hassidism and co-teacher of the spiritual direction program at Hebrew Union College.

Please arrive at least five minutes before 10 so we are ready to begin the meditation at exactly 10 AM.

Our Shabbat Program

Our Saturday Shabbat schedule has been enjoyed by many. From 10:00-10:20AM is Shabbat Morning Meditation. *Please arrive at least five minutes before 10 so we are ready to begin the meditation at exactly 10 AM.* Rabbi Haddon provides us with worship service from 10:30-11:30 and we end the morning with Oneg Shabbat and Torah Study from 11:45-12:45. Our complete schedule of services and events are provided below and can also be found under the Schedule tab in our website, congbethdavid.org.

Worship Service

Our Shabbat worship services are slightly shortened, but include the essential elements, including: a torah reading, all of the significant parts of the worship liturgy, plenty of music, a brief sermonette, and (probably fewer) responsive readings in English.

Oneg Shabbat and Torah Study

To give greater depth and coherence to our prayers and to increase our understanding of our tradition, adult education focuses on the Torah.

TEXT: *Sacred Judaism: The Tanach*, in English, edited by Jaroslav Pelikan, published by The Jewish Publication Society, 1985.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Study

Study and preparation is already underway for this year's B'not Mitzvah class however interest should always be directed to Rabbi Haddon by email, jonrab33@gmail.com.

2019 Synagogue Schedule

Please be aware that dates may change, and you can always find the latest information by visiting our website at www.CongBethDavid.org.

Our 2019 Synagogue Schedule is posted below. *Dates and times are tentative. Unless otherwise noted, Shabbat services are generally every other Saturday and commence at 10:30 AM.

The final service of 2018 will be on Saturday, December 22nd.

Saturday, March 9th	Shabbat
Saturday, March 23rd	Purim Observed
Saturday, April 6th	Shabbat
Saturday, April 27th	8th Day of Pesach Observed
Saturday, May 11th	Israel Independence Observed
Saturday, May 18th	90th Anniversary Gala *Invitation to Follow
Saturday, May 25th	Shabbat
Saturday, June 8th	Shabbat
Saturday, June 22nd	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Service
Saturday, July 6th	Shabbat
Saturday, July 20th	Shabbat
Saturday, August 3rd	Shabbat
Saturday, August 17th	Shabbat
Saturday, August 31st	Shabbat
Saturday, September 14th	Shabbat
Saturday, September 21st	Selichot Evening Service
Sunday, September 29th	Erev Rosh Hashana
Monday, September 30th	Rosh Hashana
Tuesday, October 8th	Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 9th	Yom Kipur
Saturday, October 19th	Succot
Saturday, November 2nd	Shabbat
Saturday, November 16th	Shabbat
Saturday, November 30th	Shabbat
Saturday, December 14th	Shabbat
Saturday, December 28th	Havdalah and Hanukkah Dinner

Temple Directory

Spiritual Leader	Rabbi Jon Haddon	jonrab33@gmail.com
President	Bil Ehrlich	wsebethdavid@gmail.com
Co-Vice Presidents	Eve Propp	
	Stewart Rosen	
Treasurer	Paul Alter	
Oneg Coordinations	Lauren Rosen	203.417.7307
		lsrosen@att.net
Board Member	Paul Alter	
Board Member	Phyllis Bonsignore	
Board Member	Bil Ehrlich	
Board Member	Sherry Frankel	
Board Member	Richard Kalikow	
Board Member	Mort Klaus	
Board Member	Eve Propp	
Board Member	Lauren & Stewart Rosen	