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### Congregation Beth Hamedresh - Beth Israel

# BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

### October President's Message

Friends,

It's hard to write a President's message when the dog just made a mess on the kitchen floor. It's hard to get the important things done when the day to day tasks continue to intrude. As I'm writing this, Rosh Hashanah is past and Yom Kippur is coming. Rosh Hashanah is called *Yom Hazikaron* in the Torah, the Day of Rememberance. One of my friends is going around asking people "What are we supposed to remember?" The 1<sup>st</sup> day Torah reading involves the birth of Isaac, "and G-d remembered Sarah". Not only does G-d remember the promise to Sarah, he also remembers the covenant with Abraham. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day reading has the binding of Isaac (thought by the Rabbis to have occurred on Rosh Hashanah), after which the covenant is reaffirmed. Part of the musaf service is the *zikhranot*, remembrance verses, which list examples of G-d remembering us. So, perhaps *Yom Hazikaron* is the day for G-d to remember?

We too should remember the part we play in maintaining the covenant. This is the time of year for us to reflect upon our lives, to *remember* what we have done or not done during the past year, and to think about how we should behave in the coming year. We all have to put aside the distractions of the mundane and make the time to remember.

For our shul the past month has included some distractions. We are arranging to get new gutters and roof repairs. We also have had emergency plumbing repairs in the ceiling of our kitchen. These distractions will not dissuade us from taking action on the important issue of access to our building. We are going ahead with plans to install a handicapped access lift for our main entrance. A ramp was vetoed by the historic preservation board, but a lift was approved. The total cost will be around \$15,000. We are looking for grants and we already have some money donated for the project. Please help us help all of our members come to shul by making a donation for a lift!

October brings Sukkot. The first day service will be held at Temple Beth Am. The past couple of months have seen a number of cooperative activities with Beth Am. However, I was disappointed at how few of our members attended joint events at Beth Am. Cooperation can't work if we don't give it a chance. Rabbi Goldberg will be leading Shemini Atzeret services at Beth Am on October 9<sup>th</sup> and at BHBI on October 10<sup>th</sup> and Simchat Torah service at Beth Am on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Please come and hear our Rabbi and support our joint services. We will have our own traditional Simchat Torah service on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> as well. It's lots of fun, so please come.

Have a great October.

Leon Metlay

#### HAVE A WONDERFUL SUKKOT!



See Rabbi Goldberg's Sukkot Message on Page 3

### **BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2009**

Friday	Oct 2	6:30 PM	Erev Sukkot and Shabbat Evening Service at BHBI Light candles at 6:31 PM				
Saturday	Oct 3	9:30 AM	Joint Sukkot & Shabbat Morning Services with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles after 7:29PM				
Sunday	Oct 4	9:00 AM	Sukkot Second Day Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI				
Wednesday	Oct 8	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study Session at BHBI				
Friday	Oct 9	6:30 PM	Joint Erev Shemini Atzeret and Shabbat Evening Services with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg Officiating Light candles at 6:18 PM				
Saturday	Oct 10	9:00 AM 8:30 AM	Joint Shemini Atzeret and Shabbat Morning Service and Yizkor with Temple Beth Am at BHBI with Rabbi Goldberg Officiating  Erev Simchat Torah Service at BHBI  Light candles after 7:17 PM				
Sunday	Oct 11	9:30 AM	Joint Simchat Torah Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg Officiating				
Monday	Oct 12	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees				
Friday	Oct 16	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 6:07 PM				
Saturday	Oct 17	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Beresheit				
Sunday	Oct 18	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion				
Friday	Oct 23	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 5:56 PM				
Saturday	Oct 24	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Noah				
Sunday	Oct 25	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion				
Friday	Oct 30	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 5:46 PM				
Saturday	Oct 31	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Lech Lecha				

#### THE RABBI GOLDBERG FUND

We have recently started a Rabbi Goldberg Fund to enable us to engage Rabbi Goldberg to lead additional services at BHBI during the year in addition to the previously scheduled 16 joint services that he will be leading for BHBI and Temple Beth Am. Whenever the funds in the Rabbi Goldberg Fund reach a predetermined level, we will schedule an additional service with Rabbi Goldberg. To contribute to the Rabbi Goldberg Fund, please send a check in to BHBI with a notation that the contribution should be used for the Rabbi Goldberg Fund.

# HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BHBI FOR OUR DISABLED MEMBERS – MAKE A DONATION TO HELP US BUY A LIFT!



## RABBI'S MESSAGE By RABBI GEOFFREY GOLDBERG

Judaism is blessed with many beautiful and meaningful festivals which teach us to sense the preciousness and sanctity of time. As soon as one festival is over, another seems to be on the horizon—and all too often—just around the corner. Every observant Jew wonders, "why could not the *hagim* be spread out a little more evenly over the year?" This is a very valid question, especially at this time of the year when the *Yamim Nora'im* are followed immediately by Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Perhaps an answer to this question lies within *Kohelet* ("Ecclesiastes" in English) which we read during Sukkot (this year on Shemini Atzeret). There we read such immortal words as:

Everything has its appointed time, and there is a season for every event under the sky.

There is a time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot.

A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to destroy and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance....

A time to love and a time to hate,

A time for war and a time for peace (From Kohelet, Chapter 3).

Do we ever know when these times will occur? Occasionally we do, but for the most part we do not. We never know when joy will come into our lives, or illness strike and death occur. We never know when war will break out, a terrorist attack occur, or peace emerge after years of conflict. All we can do is to be prepared, as best we can, for whatever life brings. But most especially, when times of joy and happiness occur, we must seize the moment, give thanks, and rejoice.

So now we must seize the moment that the Sukkot season brings. I love the transition from Yom Kippur to Sukkot. On Yom Kippur we deny ourselves physical pleasures, we live, as it were, on a totally "spiritual" level for 25 hours. And then we throw ourselves into pure physicality: the beauty of the Sukkah and the tangibility of the Lulav and Etrog, to be experienced and enjoyed with all our senses.

In Temple times a ceremony called "Simchat beit ha-Sho'evah" the "Rejoicing of the Drawing of the Water" was performed. It was such a joyous occasion that it was said, "The one who has not seen the rejoicing of the Beit ha-Sho'evah" has never seen joy in that person's life" (Mishnah, Sukkot, 5:1). While we no longer perform this ceremony, surely we can say the same of the waving of Lulav and Etrog in particular, and the Festival of Sukkot as a whole. If you have never waved the Lulav and Etrog, or savored the exquisite fragrance of the latter, you have missed one of the joys of life. Don't miss out. Come to services. Of all the hagim, Sukkot must surely be the most beautiful, and many would say, the most fun.

Hag Sameach,

Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

#### **YAHRZEITS**

At the following Shabbat Services, we will read the names of our late loved ones whose Yahrzeits will occur on that Shabbat or during the following week.

October 2-3	Tishrei	October 16-17	Tishrei- Cheshvan	October 23-24	Cheshvan	October 30-31	Cheshvan
Irving Solomon Harris I. Cenzer* Jean Traub* Marie L. Steinmetz* Robert Steinmetz* Stanley Toker*	15 18 18 19 19 20	Sam Gold Bernard Israel Celia Israel Bessie Miller* Ida Phillips Sarah Rickler* Blanche Florescue	29 30 30 1 2 4	Ida Menter* Clara Spencer Marion Lazar* Joseph D. Stolnitz* Ida Buckbinder* Irene Bernstein	7 7 8 8 9	Israel Astrachan* Marion Grossman* Nellie Beckler* David Mandelbaum Lena Cohen* Sofya Kaminnik*	13 13 15 15 16 17
October 9-10		Ross* Charles Schnidman*	4 4	Mikolasek* Bernard	9	Ray Toker Mosheh Lazar*	17 18
Daniel Horowitz Beverly Clark* David Israel Morris Album*	23 24 24 25	Harry Silverman* Rabbi Jordan Taxon  * Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque	4 4	Lipschutz Lottie Astrachan* Lewis Glaser Alfred E. Hart* Sol Weinstein*	10 12 12 12 12 12	Nathan Pastor Nachem Reb Tsvi Hersh Julia Goldman*	18 18 19

We pray that our mourners will be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and that the memory of the deceased continues to be a blessing to all who knew them.





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So far our *TOPS* Gift Card fundraiser has been quite successful. Remember, *TOPS* Gift Cards are now available through BHBI in \$50 denominations.

To purchase *TOPS* Gift Cards, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or by e-mail at stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

# THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

September 12 The Congregation

September 19 Art and Judith Mercer (Apples and Honey for Rosh Hashanah)

September 26 The Congregation

September 28 Harris and Aline Honickman (Yom Kippur Break Fast in memory of Milton Honickman)

#### TO OUR DONORS -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

(Note: Donations to the High Holy Day Appeal will be acknowledged in the November BHBI Bulletin)

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Steve and Ruth Teitel

In memory of Mazel Tov Levy

Paul and Rose Israel

#### **TORAH FUND**

In memory of Steve Teitel's father

Helen and Steve Gulack

In memory of Philip Rogachefsky

Harry Rogachefsky

In honor of Chris and Andrea Paprocki and family *Julian and Sonia Sugarman* 

In honor of the birth of Carley Denim Shapiro, daughter of Sarah and Casey Shapiro, grand-daughter of Ruth and Steve Teitel

Ruth and Steve Teitel

In memory of Joseph Teitel Ruth, Steve and Jack Teitel

In honor of the congregation for the kindness shown on the passing of Steve's father Ruth and Steve Teitel

#### RABBI AARON SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Esther Solomon's 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday *Gloria and Stuart Kaplan* 

#### RABBI GOLDBERG FUND

Stan and Elaine Schaffer

#### BIMAH FLOWERS FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Mamie and Phillip Morrow, Bessie and Harry Cominsky, Edna and Carl Astrachan, and Bea and Jerry Levien

Hanna and Norm Lester

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# DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS UNAFFILIATED AND INTERESTED IN JOINING A CONGREGATION?

Let them know about BHBI's special <u>free 3 month trial membership</u> (available to prospective first-time new members only). Have them contact BHBI at 244-2060 or BHBI@frontiernet.net and we will be happy to give them information about BHBI and this great offer!!

**OFFICE**: The synagogue office is checked regularly for mail and messages. The synagogue phone is 244-2060. For urgent issues, call Steve Teitel at 473-5741 or Stan Schaffer at 473-8072. You can also e-mail us at BHBI@frontiernet.net

#### WANT TO REMEMBER OR HONOR SOMEONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION?

Consider sponsoring a kiddush or making a donation to any one of our funds (General Operating, Kiddush, Library, Torah, Rabbi Aaron Solomon Scholarship, Our Youth, Special Events, Rabbi Goldberg Fund or the Sam Malina Memorial Fund). Please indicate which fund you would like your donation to go to and we will send out an acknowledgement card as you indicate and print an announcement in this bulletin. A standard sponsored kiddush at BHBI costs just \$40 while a larger enhanced kiddush is just \$50.

#### **BULLETIN CONTENT**

What do you enjoy reading in the BHBI Bulletin? Is there something that you would like added (or taken out)? If so, please let Stan Schaffer know. We always appreciate feedback.

#### **DID YOU MISPLACE YOUR BULLETIN?**

Don't worry. BHBI Bulletins going back several months can now be found on our web page: www.BHBIRochester.org

<u>WANT TO GET YOUR BULLETIN HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS</u>? Consider having us e-mail it to you! Contact Stan Schaffer at: stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

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