

BULLETIN

December President's Message

Friends:

“Hanukkah is not the most important date on the Jewish calendar. But don't tell that to retailers.” I groaned when I read these words in last Sunday's D&C. I'm sure some of you did too. What followed was a short article on kitchy items retailers are selling to try to cash in on Chanukah. Want to buy a Star of David bundt pan from Walmart's? I thought not.

Chanukah is very early this year and I hope I will see you all at our party on Sunday December 5th at 5:30. By the way, if you're wondering why I use the spelling “Chanukah”, I see it as closer to the Hebrew spelling: chet-nun-vav-kaf-hay. But perhaps it's just in reaction to the paper spelling it “Hanukkah”.

Anyway, with Chanukah so early, perhaps that will separate the Chanukah marketing a little better from the Xmas marketing. December is hard enough to get through as it is without enduring TV ads for Star of David bundt pans. My favorite trip to Israel was in December of 1985. It was cold, wet, and miserable, and that was inside the apartment. Some of our daytrips were canceled due to weather. But, I didn't see a plastic Santa Claus the whole time we were there, and the pervasive commerciality was absent – for any holiday.

Don't get me wrong, some of my best friends are Christians. I even know some Christians who take their own religion seriously without being obnoxiously condescending to mine. They should be well. Meanwhile, January is only a month away. Maybe I'll have something more creative to say next month.

The other implication of an early Chanukah is that this year is a leap year, there will be a second month of Adar, so that Purim and Pesach and the High Holy Days will all be later. We can look forward to an extra month to get the house ready for Pesach! I can hardly wait.

At this festive time we should also remember our members Ben & Muriel Hobel, Esther Solomon, Maxine Gold, Erika Gunder and Ella Finkelman who live at the Jewish Home and Paul and Rose Israel who live in a senior living community in Greece. Please visit them if you have an opportunity.

Chappy Chanukah.

B'shalom,

Leon Metlay



Happy Chanukah

to one and all!

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2010

Friday	Dec 3	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 4:17 PM
Saturday	Dec 4	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Blessing for the New Month Torah: Miketz
Sunday	Dec 5	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
		5:30 PM	Joint BHBI-Beth Am Chanukah Celebration & Dinner at BHBI
Wednesday	Dec 8	7:30 PM	Joint Torah Study with members of Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David at BHBI
Friday	Dec 10	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg officiating Light candles at 4:16 PM
Saturday	Dec 11	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Vayigash
Sunday	Dec 12	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Dec 13	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	Dec 17	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:18 PM
Saturday	Dec 18	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Vayeichi
Sunday	Dec 19	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Dec 24	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:21 PM
Saturday	Dec 25	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Dec 26	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Dec 31	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 4:26 PM

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

Let them know about BHBI's special free 3 month trial membership (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!!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RSVP TO OUR CHANUKAH PARTY!

If you would like to attend the joint BHBI-Beth Am Chanukah party on Sunday, December 5th but haven't gotten around to RSVPing quite yet, you're in luck – you call or e-mail Steve Teitel by Friday, December 3rd to attend. E-mail Steve at bhbi@frontiernet.net or call him at 473-5741 today.

TORAH STUDY

Join us for an interactive session of Torah study with our friends from Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David at BHBI on Wednesday evening, December 8th at 7:30 p.m. The discussion is always lively!



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK
By
RABBI GEOFFREY GOLDBERG

December 2010

Just a few days ago I returned from Israel and my stay in Jerusalem to move forward the work on my book for the Jewish Music Research Centre of the Hebrew University. My visit was a success in every respect and significant progress was made on the book. Within the next six months I need to complete the project and it is my desire to accomplish this.

The stay was very emotional on many levels. In 2000 I completed my studies at the Hebrew University and ten years later I was invited by the University to come to Jerusalem to work on the book based on my dissertation. I was also invited to give a lecture based on my work. I gave a Power Point presentation which was very well received. It was thrilling to give the lecture to such a learned and interested audience.

Jerusalem seems to have grown by leaps and bounds since my last visit. One of the largest infrastructure projects is the construction of a light rail system which, I was told, is due to start operation in six months' time. At the very entrance to Jerusalem is an ultra-modern bridge which will carry the trains over the highway. The plans that were being discussed more than a decade ago are about to be realized.

I attended Shabbat services at synagogues that most tourists don't visit. For example, I visited two Moroccan synagogues, one in Jerusalem, which I used to attend, and another in Tel-Aviv. The highlight for me is the congregational rhythmic chanting of the entire *Kabbalat Shabbat* service. By way of contrast was the huge synagogue of the *Bratslav Hassidim* in Mea Shearim in Jerusalem. It was an unforgettable experience in every respect. I also attended the Masorti synagogue in the Jerusalem district of Beit Ha-Kerem which I had attended frequently in the past. To my disappointment it did not use the Israeli Masorti siddur, *Va'ani Tefillati*, but the *D'var Torah* (in Hebrew) was excellent.

Since I was working hard on the book project I had no time for sightseeing, but I could not keep out of bookstores. Stein's second hand book store was a great temptation and there I snatched up a copy of Zalmanoff's compilation of *Chabad niggunim*.

Israeli politics remain as volatile as ever, and the Secular/Haredi divide is as wide as ever. There were nation-wide student demonstrations against payments to married *Haredi* yeshivah students while student tuition for university students has increased considerably. Political corruption continues to be front-line news, even in *Ha'aretz*, Israel's most serious newspaper.

The weather was beautiful throughout my entire stay. However, this is unsettling, since Israel desperately needs rain and the water level of the Kinneret is extremely low.

I was truly blessed by the opportunity to stay in Israel for this stay even though all my prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude can never sufficiently repay to God for the gift that was given to me. But all good things must come to a close.

I look forward to seeing you soon. *Hag Urim Sameah*.

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.

Dec 3-4	Kislev-Tevet	Dec 10-11	Tevet	Dec 17-18	Tevet	Dec 25-26	Tevet
Michael Miller*	27	Morton Fink*	4	Maurice Bloom*	11	Louis Bernstein*	18
Emma Aranow*	28	Belle Lipsky	4	Manuel Miller*	11	Carl Kleinstein*	18
Karen Cohen	28	Abraham Weinstein*	4	Sadie Aberman*	12	Rose Needler*	18
Rose Marcus	28	Abraham Stolnitz*	5	Sol Lazarus*	12	Estelle Hirsch*	19
Morris Kanthor*	3	Barbara Bertman*	6	Fannie Osband*	13	Shie Schnidman*	19
		Sigmund Traub*	6	Celia Suskind*	14	Anna Buff*	21
Dec 31-Jan 1	Tevet	Miriam Jossem*	7	Dora Rogovin*	15	Benjamin Dvorkin*	21
Samuel Meilstein*	26	David Goodman*	8	Nathan Garver	16	Goldie Simon*	23
Ida Boyarsky*	27	Selma Kauffman Lansky*	9	Dorothy Lapidés	16	Leah Keyfetz*	24
Philip Hershkowitz	27	William Silverstein*	10	Henry Orbach	16	Joseph Morris*	24
Jack Glazer	28			Fannie Sablowsky*	17	Esther Sanzel*	24
Joe Lazarus*	28	* Denotes name		Philip Sanzel*	17		
Jean Spencer	1	memorialized on BHBI		Joseph Schiff*	17		
Morris Weinstein*	2	Memorial Plaque		Hannah Senzel*	17		

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.

GOODSEARCH.COM

Goodsearch.com is an on-line internet search program that pays non-profit organizations like BHBI a fee every time someone uses their search service. Go to www.goodsearch.com, enter the search term that you want and put in BHBI on the line where it says Who Do You Goodsearch For? BHBI will collect a fee for each search you make!

THE RABBI FUND

Contributions to the Rabbi Fund enable us to engage Rabbi Goldberg to lead additional services at BHBI during the year. Whenever the funds in the Rabbi Fund reach a predetermined level, we will schedule an additional service with Rabbi Goldberg. To contribute to this purpose, please send a check in to BHBI with a notation that the contribution should be used for the Rabbi Fund.

AMAZON.COM

Are you starting your Chanukah shopping? Why not shop on-line? The next time that you want to buy something from Amazon.com go to the BHBI web page at www.BHBIRochester.org and click on the Amazon.com link. Each time you make a purchase after linking to Amazon.com from our web page, BHBI gets a percentage of the purchase. Buy gifts or something for yourself or your family and support BHBI at the same time!!

WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Please note that our wheelchair lift is now fully installed and operational. If you are someone who has stayed away from services because of difficulty climbing our stairs, know that there is now a safe, easy and convenient way to join us once again. Please come and give it a try! There is a conveniently located button to press should you need assistance. So don't delay any longer – join us at BHBI services and events!

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Memorialize a friend or loved one by purchasing a BHBI memorial plaque. For more information, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

TO OUR DONORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

RABBI AARON SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Mabel Brodell
Ira Cohen

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Stanley Toker
Peg Toker

In honor of Paul and Rose Israel's 68th wedding anniversary
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In honor of Muriel Hobel's birthday
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 6	Katharine Metlay in memory of her brother, Leon Titof
November 13	Steve and Ruth Teitel in memory of Steve's mother, Eleanor Teitel, and Katharine Metlay in memory of her mother, Fanny Titof
November 20	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of numerous family birthdays
November 27	Katharine Metlay in honor of Leon's birthday

EVENTS IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Super Sunday

The Jewish Federation's Super Sunday pledge drive is coming up on December 12th. Please be generous when the Super Sunday volunteer calls. The Federation also still can use volunteers for Super Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering to work a 3 hour shift on Super Sunday, contact the Federation at 461-0490 or see the Federation's web site – www.jewishrochester.org

See Israel with Other Members of the Rochester Jewish Community

The Jewish Federation is organizing a mission to Israel from May 1-11, 2011 with an optional add-on side trip to Prague May 11-15. The mission will be in Israel for Yom Ha-Atzmaout (Israel Independence Day). For more information contact Jay Podolsky by phone at 461-0490 x224 or by e-mail at jpodolsky@jewishrochester.org

*Rochester's
Jewish Funeral Home*



*Establishing
a New Tradition*

BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.

*Graveside, Temple or Chapel Services.
Now respectfully maintaining the PARSKY records.*

427-8520

Jarrod M. Krieger
owner & 4th generation Rochesterian
www.BrightonMemorialChapel.com

3325 Winton Road South
S/W corner of Jefferson & Winton Rds

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

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 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 5 years can now be found on our web page: www.BHBIRochester.org

WANT TO GET YOUR BULLETIN HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS? Consider having us e-mail it to you!

Contact Stan Schaffer at: stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel
1369 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610