

BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

March President's Message

Dear Friends,

We were saddened last week to hear of the passing of Muriel Hobel. I was particularly surprised because I had talked to her only a couple of weeks previously and she was sounding pretty good at that time. It's tempting to use phrases such as "end of an era", even though there are others in our congregation from Muriel's generation who are very much with us. Muriel was always here. I can barely think of any event we had where Muriel wasn't present up to the point that her mobility problems became bad enough that she moved to Heather Heights. For many years Muriel was on our Board. When the kitchen was full of Sisterhood women frying latkes, Muriel was there. Whenever we had our picnic, Muriel was there. One of the great blessings of having our new elevator was that Muriel was able to attend our most recent Chanukah party. Everyone remarked on how well she looked.

While I'm at it, I want to point out a serious error in the obituary which appeared in the Democrat and Chronicle. The obit says that she and Ben were married 60 years, but Ben assures me they were married 62 years. If you haven't had a chance to talk to Ben, give him a call at the Jewish Home. I'm sure he'd appreciate hearing from you.

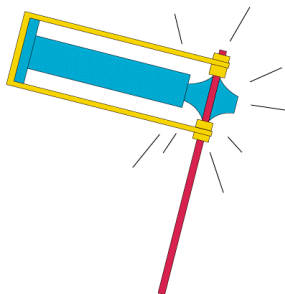
I always enjoyed talking to Muriel. She was a fount of information about our shul's past. I'll miss her.

One of the other recent events Muriel was able to attend was last year's Shabbat Across America dinner at Temple Beth Am. We have been invited to join them again this year, and again this year some of the residents of Heather Heights will be with us. It will be on March 4th. There was a flyer in last month's bulletin. If you hurry, you may still be able to get reservations.

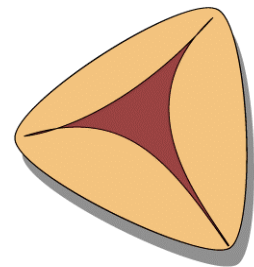
Another event this month will be our Purim celebration, which will be held in the Senior Adult Lounge at the JCC on Saturday night, March 19th. The service will be conducted jointly with Beth Am and Rabbi Goldberg will be officiating. This year the megillah will be read partially in English and partially chanted in Hebrew by several of our members. Chabad is also having their Purim service at the JCC, but I don't think it will be hard for you to figure out which service is ours. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Shalom,

Leon Metlay



Have a Happy
Purim!



BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MARCH 2011

Friday	Mar 4	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Across America Dinner and Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 5:44 PM
Saturday	Mar 5	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Pekudei
Sunday	Mar 6	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Mar 9	7:30 PM	Joint Torah Study with members of Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David at BHBI
Friday	Mar 11	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg officiating Light candles at 5:53 PM
Saturday	Mar 12	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Vayikrah
Sunday	Mar 13	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Mar 14	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	Mar 18	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 7:01 PM
Saturday	Mar 19	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Tzav
		7:15 PM	Joint Purim Megillah Reading with Temple Beth Am at the JCC Senior Adult Lounge with Rabbi Goldberg officiating
Sunday	Mar 20	9:00 AM	Service with Purim Megillah Reading, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Mar 25	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 7:09 PM
Saturday	Mar 26	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shemini
Sunday	Mar 27	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

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!!

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.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

By
RABBI GEOFFREY GOLDBERG

March 2011

Purim, as many of us learned in Hebrew school, is counted as one of the “minor festivals.” Even so, the rabbis held Purim, and the events that it commemorates, in great esteem. An entire tractate of the Talmud is dedicated to it (which is far more than can be said about Hanukkah) and some remarkable statements about Purim are recorded in the rabbinic literature.

In Midrash on Proverbs (9:2) we read, “Should all other festivals cease to be observed, the days of Purim will never be annulled.” On the other hand, in the Talmud *Yerushalmi* (2:12) we find the statement, “Though all other festivals be abolished, Hanukkah and Purim will never be annulled.” But perhaps the strangest opinion of all is that found in the midrash collection entitled *Yalkut Shimoni*, “All the festivals will in the future be abolished except Purim and Yom Kippur.”

This latter statement has always fascinated me. Of course, to understand it, you need to appreciate that whoever made this statement was having a bit of fun, since one of the names for the Day of Atonement is Yom ha-Kippurim, which sounds like Purim.

Yom Kippur and Purim seem to be poles apart. Yom Kippur we associate with not having a good time, fasting and introspection, being serious, and not having sexual relations. Purim, on the other hand, we associate with having a good time, with eating and drinking, with getting a little *shikker*, beauty queens, having a good joke and dressing up.

If we delve into the story of Purim a little more, we will find that it is actually somewhat deeper and more complex than the simplistic description I have just given. For example, on Purim we also send gifts of food to friends (*mishloach manot*). Purim is customarily a time for giving *tzedakah* to the poor in the form of *mattanot la-eyyonim*, so that they will be able to make preparations for observing Passover. There are also moments of sadness and reflection during the reading of the *Megillah*, such as when the decree went out in Shushan for the destruction of the Jews, or when reference is made the silver goblets used at the King's banquets which, according to the midrash, are understood to be those stolen from the Temple in Jerusalem. (Such verses are traditionally chanted in the melody of *Eikhab*, Lamentations).

But why are Purim and Yom Kippur really lumped together when they are apparently so far apart? I don't have the perfect answer, but one explanation I would like to suggest is that Purim and Yom Kippur touch on the extremes. This is what they share in common. A person who has really lived is one who has known the extremes of the human emotions, both great joy and deep sorrow, has seized whatever opportunities came his or her way for enjoyment and new experiences, but also taken the time for introspection, looking within and searching the soul. We cannot live in such extremes all the time (and that is why Purim and Yom Kippur are celebrated only for one day each), but the extremes do pull us into places that we might not otherwise venture.

I look forward to seeing you at Temple Beth Am and BHBI's joint Purim service and celebration on Saturday evening, March 19th at the JCC. Come along for the *Megillah* reading in Hebrew and English, sing Purim songs, meet friends and acquaintances, indulge in *hamentaschen* and other goodies, reverie and fun. After this long, cold and snowy winter, we all need a *simbah* to warm up our lives.

Hag Purim Sameah,

Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

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, March 9th at 7:30 p.m. The discussion is always lively!

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.

March 4-5	Adar I-II	March 11-12	Adar II	March 18-19	Adar II	March 25-26	Adar II
Sadie Rose	29	Anna Schiff*	9	Charles Saul Gordon*	13	Carl Astrachan*	21
Mary Weinrib*	1	Shanie Rachel Robinson*	11	Charles Ambush*	15		
Emma Sarachan*	4	Irving Gold	12	Celia Engel*	16		
				Max Levy	17		
		* Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque					

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!

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MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Two new memorial plaques were recently added to our memorial board to honor the memories of Diane Hooker and Stanley Clark. You can also 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

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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

TO OUR DONORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Boris Shvarts
Nelly Vishnagorsky

In memory of Leila Markus
Mitch Markus

In memory of Muriel Hobel
Ira Cohen
Charles and Laura Levinson
Stan and Elaine Schaffer
Ruth and Steve Teitel

RABBI FUND

In memory of Edith Berkowitz
Gloria Berkowitz

WHEELCHAIR LIFT FUND

Katharine Metlay

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February 5	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of Katie Metlay's 91 st birthday
February 12	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in memory of Max Metlay
February 19	The Congregation
February 26	Katie Metlay in memory of her sister, Julie Feuerberg

Hear More About Israel at the Jewish Federation's Israel Series

The Jewish Federation is sponsoring a series of speakers on Israel, titled Israel 2011. The final speaker in the series will be Bret Stephens, the foreign affairs columnist of the *Wall Street Journal* and former editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, who will speak on Wednesday, March 16th at 7 pm at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

If You Didn't Think the World Was Crazy Enough: Desecration of the Mausoleum Containing the Tombs of Mordechai and Esther in Iran

The Simon Wiesenthal Center recently reported that the Iranian Basij student militia from Bu-Ali Sina/Avicenna University recently held a demonstration at the mausoleum containing the tombs of Mordechai and Esther in the Iranian city of Shush (the city known as Shushan in the Purim story). The student demonstrators tore off the sign at the entrance to the mausoleum denoting the site's Jewish historical character and declared that since (according to their interpretation of the Purim megillah) Mordechai and Esther were responsible for organizing the murders of 75,000 ancient Iranian martyrs on a single day at the hands of the Jews of the ancient Persian empire, the names of Mordechai and Esther should be blotted out of history and the shrine should instead become a memorial to the Iranian victims of the purported ancient holocaust perpetrated by the Jews. In response to these declarations, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has asked UNESCO to intervene to protect this historic shrine.

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