

BHBIRochester.org  
Published Monthly  
Vol. 50/No 11  
Tammuz-Av 5776  
August 2016

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

# BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

*President: Leon Metlay*  
*Treasurer: Ira Cohen*

*First Vice-President: Paula Bobb*  
*Financial Secretary: Harris Honickman*

*Second Vice-President: Stan Schaffer*  
*Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky*

## **August President's Message**

Friends,

I want to start this month by thanking you all for the condolences that you expressed to my wife on the death of her mother. Nina and I are comforted to have so many friends.

I have been reading two biographies, one fictional and one non-fictional. They are interesting to contrast, both being about men who are perceived, by at least some people, as the saviors of our people.

The fictional biography is The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks. It is a novelization of the life of King David, as seen through the eyes of the prophet Nathan. There are people who claim that King David was a figure of myth, but, as Ms. Brooks says in the afterward of the book "David must have actually existed, for no people could invent such a flawed figure for a national hero." David is portrayed as a flesh-and-blood man with both baser and higher passions, his own physical desires and his joy and exuberance in serving his G-d. The Book of Samuel and the start of Kings in the Bible show David's life in its messy complexity and the novel makes the events understandable. David united the tribes, defeated our enemies, and built his kingdom, while at the same time spoiling his sons, failing to discipline them, and condoning acts of violence and treachery. The narrator, as a prophet, can foresee both the ugly events and the eventual glory of the ascendance of King Solomon.

The non-fictional biography is Rebbe by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, the life of the 7<sup>th</sup> Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. His life is told largely in a set of anecdotes told to dozens of people who met with him over the decades. It outlines how he took Lubavitcher chasidism from a small sect to a great and influential power in the Jewish world, which has continued to grow since his death. Telushkin emphasizes the Rebbe's love for all Jews and his desire to see all Jews learning more Torah and performing more mitzvot. He addresses the Rebbe's mixed relationship with secular education and modern science, and the messianic hopes of the Rebbe's followers. The episodes of misfortune and intrigue which are, in some cases, as dramatic as episodes in the life of King David, are treated more matter-of-factly, often with little insight into the Rebbe's emotions. Whether or not we agree with him, the Rebbe has changed the landscape of our world.

I wholeheartedly recommend both of these books to you.

Our Board has voted to discontinue having regular Friday night services, except for our joint services with Temple Beth Am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month. Please support our joint services.

Two big events are coming up in August. Tisha B'Av will be observed on Saturday night August 13<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David, at Temple Beth David. Please join us.

Our picnic will take place on Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup> in the Brighton Town Park. The reason for the change in venue is that we are picnicking jointly with the Turkish Cultural Center. This will allow us to have grills both for Kosher and for Halal food. This should be a lot of fun. Please see the additional information about the picnic on page 2 and join us.

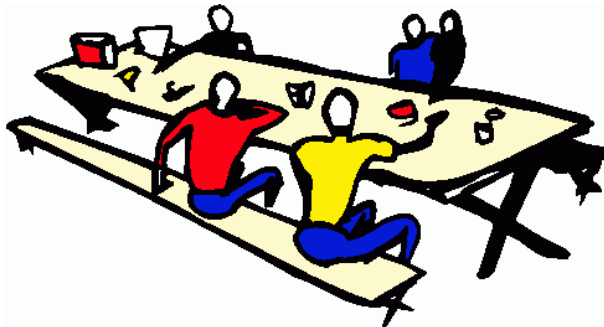
*Leon Metlay*

## BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – AUGUST 2016

Saturday	Aug 6	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service    Torah: Matot-Massei Blessing of the New Month
Sunday	Aug 7	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Aug 8	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	Aug 12	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Light candles at 7:58 PM
Saturday	Aug 13	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Devarim
		7:15 PM	Shabbat Mincha followed by Light Meal before the fast, Tisha b'Av Study Session and Ma'ariv Service with a Reading of the Book of Lamentations at TBD/TBA (located at Temple B'rith Kodesh) Fast begins at 8:10 PM
Sunday	Aug 14	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Wednesday	Aug 17	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	Aug 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service    Torah: Va'etchanan
Sunday	Aug 21	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
		2:00 PM	BHBI Interfaith Picnic with the Turkish Cultural Center at Brighton Town Park (adjacent to the Islamic Center on Westfall Road)
Saturday	Aug 27	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service    Torah: Eikev
Sunday	Aug 28	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

### BHBI Interfaith Picnic with the Turkish Cultural Center

This year we have decided to have our annual picnic in conjunction with our interfaith partners from the Turkish Cultural Center and we have also invited our friends from Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David to join us. The picnic will take place at Brighton Town Park, adjacent to the Islamic Center on Westfall Road, on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 2 pm. Food will probably be served around 4 pm. It will be a great opportunity for us to get to know folks from the Turkish community better. BHBI will provide kosher food and the Turks will provide halal food. Of course, the food is all you can eat! You may want to bring along a lawn chair. Please join us and bring your friends! Cost - \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids ages 12 and under. **RSVPs are required by August 16<sup>th</sup>** (so that we know how much food to purchase) – please either e-mail the RSVP to [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com) or call in your RSVP to 244-2060 to let us know how many people to expect. We will collect the money at the picnic.



**DONATIONS**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Gad Strubel  
*Tamara Strubel*

**THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS**  
**FOR THE MONTH OF JULY**

July 2	The Congregation
July 9	The Congregation
July 16	The Congregation
July 23	Nina Klionsky and Leon Metlay in memory of their daughter, Nelli Ahuva Metlay and in memory of Nina's mother, Esther Klionsky

**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](http://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 benefit from each search you make!

**SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY**

This month's Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at BHBI. Come and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome! If you haven't attended before, give it a try – you will definitely enjoy the lively discussion.

**MAKE YOUR PURCHASES AT AMAZON.COM**  
**AND SUPPORT BHBI AT THE SAME TIME!**

Why not contribute to BHBI while making on-line purchases? It's easy to make purchases on-line at Amazon.com and support BHBI financially at the same time. Just go to the BHBI web page at [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://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 price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes!

**TISHA B'AV**

Tisha b'Av, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of Av is commemorated as a fast day in memory of the many tragedies that befell the Jewish people on that date including: the destruction of both the First and Second Temples, the end of the Bar Kochba revolt in 70 CE which resulted in the slaughter of half a million Jews in the Holy Land, the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade in 1096, the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290 and from France in 1306, the beginning of the Spanish Inquisition and the Jewish expulsion from Spain in 1492, the beginning of the First World War in 1916, and the date that the Nazis approved the Final Solution in 1941. For the 3 week period from the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz until Tisha b'Av, we do not have weddings or parties as we mourn the period of time from when the walls of Jerusalem were breached until the First Temple was destroyed. On Tisha b' Av itself we fast and read the Book of Lamentations (Eicha) during Ma'ariv services while sitting on the floor or on a low stool. In Jerusalem, thousands of people go to the Western Wall to pray on Tisha b'Av. This year, Tisha b'Av falls on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, but since it is Shabbat, we are not allowed to fast on that day. Instead we commemorate Tisha b'Av and fast the following day (actually starting after nightfall on Saturday evening, August 13<sup>th</sup>). Please join us and our friends from Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David as we mark Tisha b' Av that evening at TBK.

## 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.

August 5-6	Av	August 12-13	Av	August 19-20	Av	August 26-17	Av
Moses Berkowitz*	3	William Aaron Bernstein*	9	Abraham Heyman*	17	Bessie Gastel*	25
Kathy Shur*	5	David Titof	9	Phillip Boyarsky*	18	Samuel Immanuel Wechsler*	25
Julian Sugarman	7	Haim Menachem Levy	12	Jennie Braime	20	Abraham Alkus*	26
Anna Berman*	8	Hyman Silverman*	12	Abraham I. Spector*	20	Rose T. Cohen	26
George Cohen*	8	Frank Carper*	13	Maurice Ohl*	21	Jacob Osband*	26
		Sarah R. Spector*	13	Sarah Applebaum Gastel*	22	Joseph Teitel	26
		Morris Shimberg*	15	Israel Osband*	22	Reuben Klein*	27
*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque						Esther Marker*	27
						Sarah Weisenberg*	28

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.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

You can also memorialize a friend or loved one on a BHBI memorial plaque. Our memorial plaques are very reasonably priced. For more information, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or [stanschaffer@frontiernet.net](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

*Rochester's  
Jewish Funeral Home*



*Establishing  
a New Tradition*

BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.

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

**Jarrold M. Krieger**  
owner & 4th generation Rochesterian  
[www.BrightonMemorialChapel.com](http://www.BrightonMemorialChapel.com)

427-8520

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](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

## AD SPONSORS

We are always looking for additional businesses that are interested in placing an ad in the BHBI Bulletin. If you know of someone whose business or company may be interested, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or by e-mail at [stanschaffer@frontiernet.net](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

## CEMETERY PLOTS

Did you know that BHBI has designated sections at Stone Road, Britten Road and Mt. Hope Cemeteries and that we sell cemetery plots? If you would like more information, contact Steve Teitel.

## BHBI WEBSITE

Have you checked out the BHBI web site lately? If you haven't there is a lot that you're missing. The web site at [www.BHBI Rochester.org](http://www.BHBI Rochester.org) provides information about many aspects of our congregation, lists the BHBI calendar, has electronic versions of this and previous bulletins going back several years, has an extensive history of our congregation along with historic photos, includes photos from several BHBI dinners, picnics and other special events, and has the unique Adon Olam Songbook with information on over 100 melodies for Adon Olam.

# Jewish Communities of the World

## *The Jews of India* (content adapted from JewsofIndia.org)

The Jews of India consist of 3 distinct groups:

1. The Cochin Jews or Cochinis
2. The Baghdadis
3. The Bene Israel
4. The Bene Menashe

### Additional Information

Genealogy Project

by *Nissim Moses*

For more information about the Indian-Jewish Community go to

[http://www.jewsofindia.org/useful\\_links.html](http://www.jewsofindia.org/useful_links.html)

### **The Cochin Jews:**

These Jews originated by settling in Cranganore and around in Malabar. They lived there for centuries. In the 15th Century, they took shelter in Cochin which is further south after being attacked by the Moors and later by the Portuguese. They never numbered more than 2,500 individuals. Today there are no more than 17 Jews left in Cochin, mainly elderly men and women.

### **The Baghdadis:**

This sect consists of Jews from West Asia, mainly from Baghdad and Syria who came in the 19th century as traders and refugees. They settled in Mumbai, Kolkata and Pune. They first arrived in Surat which was the most important port on the West Coast. They spoke Arabic or Persian and English. At one time, there were about 5,000 of them, but today there are less than 200, most of them having emigrated to the U.K., Australia and Canada.

### **The Bene Israel:**

At the present time, the Bene Israel are the largest Jewish group living in India. Their story is an old one. How old? It is disputable. Some say that they came from the ancient kingdom of Israel after they were defeated by the Assyrian king in 722 B.C.E. Some believe that when the kingdom of Judah was destroyed and Jerusalem was overrun by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E., some of the exiled Jews reached the West Coast of India. Oral tradition and probably the most favored theory is that they descended from the Jews who fled in 175 B.C.E. from the Syrian-Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes, were ship-wrecked at Navaon near the port of Cheul on the Konkan Coast, 30 miles South of Mumbai. 7 men and 7 women survived and their descendants spread to many of the surrounding villages in the Konkan. Most of the Bene Israel have surnames ending with "kar" identifying the villages where they resided. There are 142 such surnames. One, David Rahabi of Cochin is credited with the revival of Judaism among the Bene Israel. Fully convinced that the Bene Israel were Jews, he re-taught them Hebrew and the details of the Jewish religion. He appointed 3 Kazis from prominent families who then became the teachers and religious leaders of the community. When Mumbai became an important port of British India, the Bene Israel were encouraged to move there where opportunities were better for employment. Many Bene Israel have moved to Israel since 1948.

### **The Bene Menashe:**

The Bene Menashe are a small group of indigenous people from northeastern India (near Burma) who adopted Jewish practices in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their ancestors migrated there from Burma in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and they believe that they are descended from the lost tribe of Menashe. The Chief Rabbi of Israel has ruled that they should be recognized as part of a lost tribe and that after formal conversion they can be considered Jews. Some who have converted have made aliyah.

Each of the 3 groups maintained its separate identity with little mixture. In India, Jews have dwelt in security and have been accorded an honorable place in the social structure of the nation. India is predominantly a Hindu country of more than a billion people which also has approximately 130 million Muslims, 25 million Christians and less than 5,000 Jews. The pull of Israel and economic factors prompted many Jews to emigrate. However with 14 synagogues and 2 Jewish schools still functioning in India, there is presently no fear of the community disappearing.



OFFICE: The synagogue office is checked regularly for mail and messages. The synagogue phone is 244-2060. For urgent issues, call Leon Metlay at 271-2945 or Stan Schaffer at 473-8072. You can also e-mail us at [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com)

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 Fund, Kiddush Fund, Harry Rogachefsky BHBI Building Fund, Torah Fund, Rabbi Aaron Solomon Scholarship Fund, Special Events 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 years can now be found on our web page: [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://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](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

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