

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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May President's Message

Friends,

As I was preparing to write this, my last message to you in my term as Congregational President, came the news of a new synagogue shooting at a Chabad center near San Diego, resulting in one dead and three injured. Our prayers are with those injured in this terrible attack, and with their families.

The rise in anti-Semitism has been much in the news. Let me share with you some reflections on this situation, but as viewed in the context of another country: Sweden. As many of you know, in my day job I am a professor of physics. For the last 30 years my closest research collaborator has been a colleague from Umeå University in Umeå, Sweden. And so for many of the last 30 years I have been making annual trips to visit him in Umeå, a city of about 125,000 people, 250 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

Jews were first granted the right to settle in Sweden in 1718. During WWII, Sweden was a neutral country that continued doing business with Nazi Germany, but also granted refuge to some Jews seeking safety from Nazi persecution. Between 1933 and 1939 some 3000 Jews migrated to Sweden. Most famously, in 1943 Sweden granted refuge to almost the entire Danish Jewish community of roughly 8000, who were ferried to Sweden by the Danish Resistance in short order on the eve of planned deportations. In the years after the war Sweden resettled many additional Jewish refugees from the Baltic countries, Romania and Poland, such that the Jewish population of Sweden doubled between 1945 and 1970.

In more recent times, Sweden has had a generous policy of accepting refugees from all over the world, and in the recent refugee crisis Sweden has one of the highest rates of refugees per capita among European countries. Most Swedes have regarded this as a moral obligation. Many of the recent refugees have been from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In the southern city of Malmö, the third largest city in Sweden, roughly 20% of the population is now Muslim. And from around 2010 onwards, Malmö, which also has the third largest Jewish community in Sweden, has experienced numerous incidents of anti-Semitism, including violent attacks on Jewish buildings and individuals. The situation has been inflamed by some politicians from the leftist Social Democrat party who, in adopting a strongly critical stand towards the Israeli government, have at times crossed the line into anti-Semitism.

Back to Umeå. When I first started visiting Umeå in the late 1980s, I would feel like I was the only foreigner in the city. English was rarely heard on the streets and most people looked like the stereotypical fair-haired Swede. In later years, however, this changed dramatically. Now, walking in downtown Umeå, one sees all the people of the world – Africans, Asians, and Middle Easterners. I have never felt the least bit threatened by anyone in Umeå; however I did always suspect that I might be the only Jew in town. I never found any trace of an organized Jewish community there - until recently. In 2015, the Jewish press picked up a story about a Kristallnacht commemoration in Umeå and the displeasure of the local Jewish community that they were not invited to participate. What really happened is unclear; there are conflicting claims from different sides. My best guess is that in a city with little visible Jewish presence, a Kristallnacht commemoration becomes a more general anti-fascist and anti-racist rally, and in that context Israel appears as the modern villain, not the refuge of the victims of Kristallnacht. One of the primary organizers told a local paper that Jews were not in the program because "it can be perceived as an unwelcoming or unsafe situation for them."

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BHBI 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 PM

At this year's Annual Membership Meeting, we will be discussing and voting upon changes to our congregation's Constitution, so please make every attempt to attend in person. Your presence is important for us to have a quorum and because proxies cannot be used to vote on changes to the Constitution.

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2019

Saturday	May 4	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service – Blessing of the New Month Torah: Acharei
Sunday	May 5	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	May 6	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Friday	May 10	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (TBK Room 103)
Saturday	May 11	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Kedoshim
Sunday	May 12	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	May 15	7:00 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	May 18	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Emor
Sunday	May 19	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
		2:00 PM	BHBI Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday	May 25	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Behar
Sunday	May 26	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	May 31	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI

SHABBAT AND PASSOVER CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Friday, May 3 – 7:55 PM
 Friday, May 10 – 8:03 PM
 Friday, May 17 – 8:10 PM
 Friday, May 24 – 8:17 PM
 Friday, May 31 – 8:23 PM

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our Torah study session in April will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 7 pm at BHBI. See you there!

MAKE YOUR PURCHASES AT AMAZON and GOODSHOP 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 and Goodshop and support BHBI financially at the same time. Just go to the BHBI web page at www.BHBIRochester.org, go to the Donate page and click on the Amazon or Goodshop link. Each time you make a purchase after linking to Amazon or Goodshop from our web page, BHBI gets a percentage of the purchase price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes!

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Goodsearch.org 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.org, log-in (after signing up and designating BHBI as your preferred non-profit), enter the search term that you want and every time that you do a search from that site BHBI will get a small fee. BHBI will benefit from each search you make! You can also reach the Goodshop internet marketplace site from Goodsearch.org, but remember to sign in before purchasing anything so that BHBI benefits.

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.BHBIRochester.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.

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

April 6	The Congregation
April 13	The Congregation
April 21	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of our friends from Beth Am and Beth David Tamara Strubel in memory of her father, Michael Kron
April 27	The Congregation

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.

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

TOPS CARDS

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

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Voice of Memory Yom Hashoah Commemoration

The community will commemorate Yom Hashoah at the JCC on Wednesday, May 1st from 7- 8:15 p.m. Dr. Nurit Fischer-Shemer, a social welfare scholar and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, will discuss the importance of the sharing of stories of the Holocaust by the children and grandchildren of survivors. Dr. Fischer-Shemer will also give a presentation on this subject at a lunch and learn at the JCC on Thursday, May 2nd from 12-1 p.m. (lunch will be available to purchase).

An American Perspective on the Israeli Elections

Ralph Nurnberger, Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University, will be speaking on Monday, May 13th at 7:00 pm in the Hart Theatre at the JCC regarding the recent Israeli elections. Mr. Nurnberger has 40 years of senior-level experience working in and with the U.S. government on issues related to foreign policy and the Middle East. The event is free.

The Forgotten Immigrants – From Darkness to Light

This discussion of the Sephardi-Mizrachi experience leading to immigration to Israel and the U.S. is being sponsored by the Rabbi Schaya and Nechie Kilimnick Israel Resource Center and will be held on Sunday, May 19th at 7 p.m. at the JCC. At the event, which will be moderated by Rami Katz, panelists will include Sam Asher (from Egypt), Yamit Massachi (from Iran) and Lucky Nahum (from Libya). A light kosher parve reception will follow the program. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-forgotten-immigrants-from-darkness-to-light-tickets-60087014879>



Thursday, May 9th from 5 – 8 pm at the JCC

Events include: The Faces of Israel Photographic Exhibition, the greatest Israeli dance party ever, PJ Library events for kids, a musical performance and song leading by JROC Band, food for purchase and more!

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

The next I heard of the Jewish community in Umeå was in 2017. The community, which numbers fewer than 50 people and relies on the participation of Israeli students at the University, had opened a community center for cultural activities. But in 2017 the Jewish Association of Umeå, and its community center, dissolved under pressure from threats left at the center and on member's cars. The origin of these threats? Not Muslim immigrants, nor left-wing sympathizers. The threats came from the Northern Resistance Movement, a pan-Nordic, white supremacist, neo-Nazi movement that has experienced growth in recent years, due in part to rising resentment against Sweden's liberal immigration policies. On to the 2018 Swedish general election. For many years the Swedish government has shifted between a center-left coalition led by the Social Democrats, and a center-right coalition led by the Moderate Party (for context, center-right in Sweden is probably left of the Democratic Party in the US). The outlier party was the Sweden Democrats (don't be fooled, lots of parties like to append the title "Democrats" to their name). A right-wing populist party with roots in Swedish fascism, the party was primarily a white nationalist movement through the 1990s. The Sweden Democrats first crossed the threshold for representation in Parliament in 2010, and have been gaining strength due to the party's virulent anti-immigration stance. Statements from party leadership have implied that Jews cannot be Swedish unless they abandon their Jewish identity, and in 2018 the party introduced a motion calling for the banning of circumcision.

In the September 2018 election the Sweden Democrats captured 17.5% of the vote becoming the third largest party in the Parliament, behind the Social Democrats and the Moderates. The center-left coalition won 144 seats, the center-right coalition 143, and the Sweden Democrats 62. As in most multi-party parliamentary systems, it is necessary to have a coalition to form a ruling majority government. The Sweden Democrats were regarded as such outcasts that many other parties have refused to enter into a coalition with it. After 4 and a half months of deadlock, a new governing coalition was finally formed under the leadership of the Social Democrats, but only upon agreement of two center-right and one far-left parties not to vote against the new government. It remains to be seen how stable this government will be, and what might be the strength of the Sweden Democrats in the future.

Moral of the story: the growth of anti-Semitism worldwide is very real, and comes from many sources. The Jewish community should be very careful how it responds. The enemy of one's perceived enemy is not necessarily one's friend.

Our annual membership meeting will take place 3pm on Sunday May 19. Please come to vote for our new officers and board, as well as to vote on several proposed amendments to the constitution that you have received information about in the mail. I hope to see you there.

Steve Teitel

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Gertrude Kleinstein
Sherris Kleinstein

In memory of Benjamin Ritter
Elaine and Stan Schaffer

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.

May 3-4	Nisan -Iyar	May 10-11	Iyar	May 17-18	Iyar	May 31-June 1	Iyar- Sivan
Hyman Rothschild*	29	Hyman Goldberg*	6	David Gross*	13	Leopold Buchbinder*	27
Karen Schulman	30	Morton Lewis	6	Johanna Schild*	13	Charles Bertman*	27
Louis Goldberg*	1	Harry Gordon*	7	Haskell Isaac Smith*	15	Isadore D. Goldberg*	27
Louis Goldman*	3	Abraham Mosheh Molina*	7	Samuel Lederman*	16	Harry T. Levinson*	27
Beverly Honickman	4	Harry Cominsky*	11	Samuel J. Weisenberg*	16	Abraham Goldman*	28
		Tessie Yablin*	11	Libby Goldberg*	18	Arnold Kauffman*	28
		Dr. Murray Cowen*	12			Shirley B. Dvorkin*	29
				May 24-25	Iyar	Samuel Schwartz*	1
				Samuel Gastel*	21	Sam Dubin	2
				Samuel Sanow*	22	Nathan Epstein*	2
				Esther Leah Silverman*	24	Bessie Klein*	2
				Reuben Cohen	26	Rose Levin*	4
				Annette Garver	26	Esther Gertrude Schriba*	4

*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.

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

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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 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

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

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