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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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President: Harris Honickman
Treasurer: Ira Cohen

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February President's Message

Friends,

Last month we marked the beginning of the secular year. In Roman times January was called Ianuarius (the Month of Janus). It was designated the first month of the year in 450 BCE, and in 153 BCE the first day of the month was marked as the beginning of the year, which was when new Consuls took office during the Lusitanian War. Helping with the first month designation was Janus, the Roman god of new beginnings. (See Wikipedia and other sources on the internet) The tendentious Jewish connection to January 1st is that is the date that some Christians commemorate the circumcision of their founder. For some, it's also the first shedding of his blood by the "establishment" of the time, but we won't get into that here.

There are four New Years in the Jewish calendar. In addition to Rosh Hashana on Tishrei 1, there is Tu B'Shevat, Pesach on Nisan 1 in the spring, and the beginning of the month of Elul for the tithe of domestic animals. Here we are concerned with Tu B'Shevat – literally the 15th of Shevat.

“And when you shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then you shall count the fruit thereof as forbidden; three years shall it be as forbidden unto you; it shall not be eaten. And in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy, for giving praise unto the LORD. But in the fifth year may you eat of the fruit thereof, that it may yield unto you more richly the increase thereof: I am the LORD your G-d.” Leviticus 19, 23-25.

Tu B'Shevat is not mentioned in the Torah, but it is in the Mishna where the celebration of “giving praise to the Lord” is set as a formal observance. The early rabbis observed that Shevat is when the rainy season is mostly over and the trees are beginning to grow. All the other New Years begin on the 1st of the month, so why the 15th of Shevat for trees? Shammai recommended Shevat 1 and Hillel selected the 15th. Shammai reasoned that the 1st was associated with the sun and the Tree of Life. Hillel took the middle of the month, when the moon is in its glory. For Hillel, that was when the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil would become only the Tree of Good because evil would no longer exist in the age of the Messiah. Guess who won? Poor Shammai.

In the Middle Ages Tu B'Shevat was rediscovered by Jewish mystics and in the 17th century the form of the Pesach seder was emulated to create the Tu B'Shevat seder. In the present era, it has enjoyed a revival as a holiday that links Jews with the land of Israel and as a Jewish celebration of the environment.

We join Temple Beth Am for a Tu B'Shevat seder, brunch and Siyum (celebrating completing a tractate in the Talmud) on February 9 at 11:00 AM in the Beth Am Social Hall, TBK Room 106. Please see page 4 in this Bulletin for details, to make a reservation, and for fruits to bring and share at the seder.

We also join Beth Am at TBK for Shabbat Across America on Erev Shabbat, February 28 at 5:30 PM for dinner and services. Again, please see page 4 for details, reservations, and cost. Please offer to help with preparation and cleanup.

See you at shul,
Harris Honickman

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday	Feb 1	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am, Torah: Bo
Friday	Feb 7	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David and Ohel Avraham at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 5:12 PM)
Saturday	Feb 8	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am, Torah: Beshalach
Sunday	Feb 9	9:00 AM	Service, Discussion – note, no breakfast this morning
		11:00 AM	Tu B'Shvat Siyum / Seder / Brunch at Temple Beth Am (TBK room 106) See further information on page 4
Monday	Feb 10	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	Feb 14	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 5:22 PM)
Saturday	Feb 15	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service, Torah: Yitro
Sunday	Feb 16	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast, Discussion
Wednesday	Feb 19	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Feb 21	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David and Ohel Avraham at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 5:31 PM)
Saturday	Feb 22	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service, Torah: Mishpatim
Sunday	Feb 23	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast, Discussion
Friday	Feb 28	5:30 PM	Shabbat Across America Dinner with Temple Beth Am (TBK room 106) See further information on page 4
		7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service at Temple Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 5:40 PM)
Saturday	Feb 29	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service, Torah: Terumah

FRIDAY SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES

BHBI, Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David hold joint Shabbat Evening Services every Friday in the Beth Am Sanctuary (TBK Room 103). Services will be at 6:30 PM, except for the 4th Friday of the month when Services will be at 6:00 PM followed by a vegetarian dinner at 7:00 PM. Contact Ronna Marsh at 473-4317, or ronnamarsh@yahoo.com, by 6:00 PM of that week's Wednesday if you plan to come to the dinner.

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our Torah study session in February will be held on Wednesday, February 19th, at 7:30 pm at BHBI. New participants are welcome at any time! No prior experience required!

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 Ira Cohen at 943-1040 or by e-mail at gouldron@aol.com

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, please have them contact the congregation at BHBIRochester@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Jan 4 The Congregation Jan 18 The Congregation
Jan 11 The Congregation Jan 25 Ruth and Steve Teitel in memory of Ruth's father Jack Glazer

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. To support BHBI by making purchases with Amazon or Goodshop, 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 them from our web page, BHBI gets a percentage of the purchase price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes! You can also support BHBI by making purchases directly with Amazon Smile. To do so, go to Smile.Amazon.com, sign in as you normally would on Amazon, and select Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel as the non-profit organization that you wish to support. Thereafter, every time you make an Amazon purchase at Smile.Amazon.com, BHBI will receive a portion of the cost of your purchase.

GOODSEARCH.ORG

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.

EVENTS THIS MONTH IN THE COMMUNITY

Tuesday, February 3, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, at the Univ. Rochester, Rush Rhees Library, Hawkins-Carlson Room
Award winning author Sayed Kashua: *The Foreign Mother Tongue - Living and Writing as a Palestinian in Israel*

A Palestinian citizen of Israel who writes in Hebrew, author and journalist Sayed Kashua is known for his novels, humorous columns, and as creator of the hit Israeli TV sitcom *Arab Labor*. Sponsored by the Department of Religion and Classics and the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Rochester. The lecture is open to the public.

Thursday, February 6, 7-8:30 pm, at the JCC

Talking Tachles with the ShinShinim: *Combat Boots on the Ground; How the IDF shapes the Israeli character*

The ShinShinim are recent Israeli high school grads who defer army service for one year to serve as emissaries abroad and share Israeli culture with community members of all ages.

Thursday, February 13, 5:30-7:30 pm, at Nazareth College, Shults Center

The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism: *How We Can Respond in the Courtroom and as a Community*

A presentation and discussion on the recent rise of anti-Semitism in our communities and across the country. Sponsored by: Monroe County Bar Association Center For Education / The Konar Center For Tolerance And Jewish Studies At Nazareth College / The Jewish Federation Of Greater Rochester's Levine Center To End Hate

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 pm, at Congregation Beth Shalom

Aneurysms: What you need to know *Honoring Rebbetzin Nechie Kilimmick*

Presented by Dr. Carolyn Stern, Instructor, Clinical Emergency Medicine. RSVP by February 14 to gerri@bethshalomrochester.org or (585) 473-1625. Suggested donation \$10. Sponsored by Beth Shalom Sisterhood

Special Events in February in partnership with Temple Beth Am

Tu B'Shvat Siyum, brief Seder, Brunch, Sunday, February 9, 11:00 am

Temple Beth Am Social Hall, TBK room 106

Join as we celebrate with Leon and Aaron upon their completion of study of the tractate Rosh Hashanah, while at the same time celebrating Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for Trees, with an abbreviated seder. **Menu:** lots of fruit and nuts, build your own grain/quinoa salad, fruit-filled blintzes (gluten-free upon request), fruit/nut cake (gluten-free upon request), grape juice (4 shades).

Cost: fruit/nuts to share & canned food donation as detailed below

1) Bring 1 item from each of the 3 categories below (enough for 10 people to have a piece/slice). Please call/email Ronna & specify which items you will bring so we don't have duplicates.

1. Fruit/nuts with shells/inedible peels: orange, tangerine, lime, etrog, coconut, pomegranate, banana, pineapple; pine nut, walnut, almond, pecan, chestnut, cashew, hazelnut, (no pistachios, please)
2. Fruit with pits/seeds: date, cherry, avocado, peach, apricot, olive, plum, mango, nectarine, pear, apple, persimmon, star fruit, lychee, kumquat
3. Fruits we can entirely eat: fig, seedless grape, kiwi, guava, carob, berries (no strawberries, please!)

2) Bring a donation of canned food for the Brighton Food Cupboard. No glass containers.

For reservations, call or email Ronna Marsh by 6 pm, Feb. 5 (473-4317 or ronnamarsh@yahoo.com)

* * * * *

Shabbat Across America Dinner and Service, Friday, February 28

Dinner 5:30 pm in the Temple Beth Am social hall, TBK room 106, followed by 7 pm service in room 103.

Menu: roast chicken from Lipman's (vegetarian upon request), soup, gefilte fish/baba ganoush/hummus, kugel, challah, dessert

Cost: \$18/adult, \$9/child ages 6-12, \$5/child under age 6, family max: \$ 54. Extended family is welcome, even if not a temple member.

For reservations, call or email Ronna Marsh (473-4317 or ronnamarsh@yahoo.com), and give the number of adults & children (over/under age 6). **Your reservation is not complete until payment is received. There is only seating for 40 people**, so send check ASAP, payable to: TEMPLE BETH AM, 2131 Elmwood Ave, room 103, Rochester, NY 14618-1021. In memo section of check, write *Shabbat Across America*.

Payment deadline: Feb. 14 or when 40 dinners have been reserved, whichever comes first. No payments on day of dinner. If you want to be sure of a place, reserve early!

Enclose below with your check:



Shabbat Across America Dinner, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020

chicken _____ # parve vegetarian _____

Allergies/food intolerances: _____

Family last name: _____ Phone #: _____

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.

Jan 31- Feb 1	Shvat	Feb 7 - 8	Shvat	Feb 21 - 22	Shvat/Adar	Feb 28 - 29	Adar
Sidney Applebaum*	6	Abraham Newell*	13	Mariom Bernstein*	27	Betty Glaser	4
Jacob Komenski*	6	Anna Sanow*	13	Ada Goldstein*	27	Anna Ruderman*	4
Gidda Strauss*	6	Stanley Clark*	16	Samuel Keyfetz*	27	Hyman Sablowsky*	4
Morris Suskind*	7	Morris Gurian*	17	Lottie Fink*	29	Emma Sarachan*	4
Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8	Paul Israel	18	Rose Ring*	29	Celia Lapidés*	5
Herman Strauss*	8	Gitla Perkal*	18	Boris Schvarts	30	Dora Newell*	6
Dvora Brodie*	9	Samuel Spencer	18	Sam Finkelstein*	1	William Schwartz*	6
Samuel Goldman*	9			Mary Weinreb*	1	Sherman Kleinstein*	9
Daniel Hirsch*	10			Werner Schaffer	2	Anna Schiff*	9
Miriam Weinberger	12			Philip Schiff*	3	Edith Berkowitz*	10
		Feb 14 – 15	Shvat			Samuel Goldstein*	10
		Besse Gold	20			Fanny Tecler Levinson*	10
		Benjamin Lapidés*	20			Max Metlay	10
		Simon Pogal*	21				
		Jacob Rubenstein*	21				
		E. Sarah Maltinsky*	23				
		Bert Falk*	25				

*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 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

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 at BHBIRochester@gmail.com.

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.

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Remember to order your Purim Mishloach Manot Bags
See the insert to this Bulletin for details

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 Harris Honickman at 271-5145. 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 Steve Teitel 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 Steve Teitel at: BHBIRochester@gmail.com

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