BHBIRochester.org Published Monthly Vol 42/No 3 Tevet/Shevat 5768 January 2008 **Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

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Editor: Stan Schaffer

January President's Message

Friends,

Our Chanukah party this year was a great success. With over 55 people attending, it was one of our biggest BHBI events of the last few years. The food was great, the singing was rousing, and the games kept both young and old in good cheer! Our many thanks go to the party committee (Janet Grable, Leon Metlay, along with myself) that shopped, cooked, and set up the delightful Maca"Bee" party theme. Thanks also to the emcees who ran the "Bee"ngo, Spelling "Bee", and "Buzz" Word games (Dave Rogachefsky, Art Mercer and myself). The chop-stick dreidel race kept the kids busy, but I think more practice with those chop-sticks will be needed for next time! Thanks also to those who helped serve and clean up (Stan Schaffer, Ruth Teitel, Aline Honickman, Judith Mercer), and to Dave Benjamin who helped prepare many of the games. My apologies if I have left anyone out of my list – the night was busy and so many lent a hand to help. Pictures from the party are posted on the "Pics" page of our shul website.

As we start our new calendar year, our Shabbat Morning Service starts reading a new book of the Torah – Exodus, the story of our slavery in Egypt, and our departure at the hands of our greatest prophet Moses. For those of you who have not been to Shabbat service recently, I invite you to come and listen. We will be sticking with Moses and his adventures all the way through to next Simchat Torah, and not all the good parts were in the movie!

For those who enjoyed it, I give the recipe for our Chanukah Lentil Soup below.

See you in shul,

Steve Teitel

Chanukah Red Lentil Soup – adapted from *The World of Jewish Cooking* by Gil Marks: Makes 6 to 8 servings

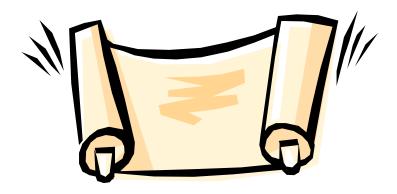
3 Tbs vegetable or olive oil
2 medium yellow onions, chopped
2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups red lentils, rinsed and drained
3 medium carrots, chopped
2 stalks celery, diced
about 8 cups water, perhaps less if you like your soup thick (you can always add more water later)
1 bay leaf
fresh chopped flat leaf parsley or cilantro or both, ½ cup or more to taste
salt, about 2 tsp or to taste
fresh ground pepper to taste
3/4 cup or so of some small shape pasta, I like ditalini, but elbows will also do

Heat the oil in large pot on medium heat. Add the onions and garlic and sauté until soft, 5 to 10 minutes. Add the lentils, carrots, celery, water, and bay leaf. Bring to boil and then reduce heat to low and simmer until lentils are done, about 30 minutes. Add parsley and/or cilantro, salt and pepper, and pasta. Continue to simmer until pasta is done. Be sure to use red (and not the more common brown) lentils, as these cook more quickly and dissolve to give a nice thick soup. The cilantro has a nice distinctive taste, so give it a try!

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – January 2008

Friday	Jan 4	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 4:29 PM.				
Saturday	Jan 5	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Blessing of the new month	Torah: Vaeirah			
Sunday	Jan 6	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion				
Wednesday	Jan 9	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Joint Torah Study Session at BHBI				
Friday	Jan 11	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Services with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 4:37 PM.				
Saturday	Jan 12	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services	Torah: Bo			
Sunday	Jan 13	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion				
Monday	Jan 14	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting				
Friday	Jan 18	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 4:45 PM.				
Saturday	Jan 19	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services	Torah: Beshalach			
Sunday	Jan 20	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion				
Friday	Jan 25	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 4:54 PM.				
Saturday	Jan 26	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services	Torah: Yitro			
Sunday	Jan 27	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion				

Don't forget to check out the photos from the BHBI Chanukah Celebration at our web site www.BHBIRochester.org



TORAH STUDY

Join friends from BHBI, Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David for an interesting evening of Torah Study at BHBI at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9th. Come and enjoy interesting conversation and make new friends while gain new insights into Torah! All are welcome.

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 1 The Congregation

December 8 The Congregation

December 15 Jill Clark in memory of her aunt, Barbara Bertman

December 22 The Congregation

December 29 The Congregation



TO OUR DONORS -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

Moris and Terri Amon

In memory of Laura Levinson's sister, Phyllis

Harriet Lempert

In memory of Nathan & Tessie Yablin

Dr. Bernard Yablin

TORAH FUND

Esther Vogelstein

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED?

Tell them about BHBI and let them know that BHBI is Rochester's friendliest shul! Then invite them to attend our services – they will be sure to get a wonderful welcome. We would also be happy to add them to our bulletin distribution list.

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 the_schaffers@juno.com

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

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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 and support BHBI at the same time!!

PLEASE VISIT OR CALL OUR ELDERLY MEMBERS!

Many of our elderly members are no longer able to come to shul and would love to hear from their BHBI friends. Please call or visit them. They'd love to hear from you!

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Excerpted from the Jerusalem Post

Uncovered Ruins Thought to Be Palace of Queen Helena

Israeli archeologists have uncovered a monumental Second Temple structure opposite the Temple Mount that was likely Queen Helena's palace. The site was uncovered just outside the old city's Dung Gate as preparations were being made to expand the Western Wall parking lot. The site indicates that the City of David was much largely than previously thought. The palace, which was dated to the end of the Second Temple period was destroyed by the Romans with their conquest of Jerusalem. Queen Helena was a wealthy Babylonian aristocrat who converted to Judaism and moved to Jerusalem with her sons. According to the first-century historian, Josephus, she was known for her generosity to the poor and for building lavish buildings in the City of David. The unearthed palace includes massive foundation walls, halls that are 2 stories high, a basement that was covered with vaults, and remains of frescoes, water installations and ritual baths. Below it are remains from the early Hellenistic period and artifacts from the time of the First Temple.

40 Iranian Jews Make Aliya

The largest-ever single group of Iranian immigrants arrived in Israel on December 25th. Many Iranian Jews left Iran in a steady stream after the fall of the shah in 1979. Before the Islamic Revolution in Iran in that year, 125,000 Jews lived there. Currently, 25,000 remain in Iran. Most of those who left resettled in the U.S. (mostly in the Los Angeles area) and a small percentage went to Israel. Prior to the arrival of the latest group, 200 Iranian Jews had resettled in Israel this year.

Israeli-Authored Resolution Approved at the UN

For the first time in history, a non-political Israeli-authored resolution was adopted by the UN. The resolution, which calls on member states to work with UN organizations to promote the development and transfer of agricultural technologies to developing countries was passed by the UN's Economics and Finance Committee by a vote of 118 in favor, 29 abstentions, and no opposing votes.

Lance Armstrong to Cycle in Israel in Honor of the Nation's 60th Anniversary

Seven-time Tour de France winner, Lance Armstrong, has accepted an invitation to participate in the inauguration of a bike trail between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as part of Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations.

77 Year Old Soldier Honored

Septuagenarian Lt. Col. Ze'ev Ram was awarded the Israeli Army's 2nd Lebanon War military ribbon on December 18th. Ram, a survivor of the concentration camps in Europe, came to Israel at age 17 a few months before the establishment of the state in 1948. He served in Israel's War of Independence and in every one of Israel's wars ever since. He continues to do reserve duty and was called up to service in the 2006 Lebanon War. When asked when he will stop doing reserve duty, he replied, "Never, unless my legs stop working or they kick me out."

Controversy in Israel About Arms Smuggling Video

The Jerusalem Post recently revealed that Israel transferred videos to Washington documenting Egyptian soldiers assisting Hamas in smuggling weapons and explosives from Sinai to the Gaza Strip. The videos were to be shown to members of Congress who are currently re-evaluating how much money the U.S. should be giving Egypt in military and civilian aid. However, the Israeli Foreign Ministry has prevented the Israeli Embassy in Washington from showing the tapes to members of Congress in order to avoid a major diplomatic rift with Egypt. This action by the Foreign Ministry has resulted in considerable controversy in Israeli political circles with Foreign Minister Livni needing to defend her actions before the Knesset.

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.

January 4 - 5	Tevet - Shevat	January 11 - 12	Shevat	January 18 - 19	Shevat	January 25 - 26	Shevat
Ida Boyarsky* Philip Hershkowitz Joe Lazarus* Jack Glazer Jean Spencer Morris Weinstein* Etta Levinson* Ida Silver*	27 27 28 28 1 2 4 4	Sidney Applebaum* Jacob Komenski* Morris Suskind* Max Springut Herman Strauss* Dvora Brodie* Samuel Goldman* Daniel Hirsch* Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	6 6 7 8 8 9 9 9 10 10	Miriam Weinberger* Anna Sanow* Abraham Newell* Rose Salzberg Gidda Strauss* Morris Gurian* Stanley Clark Samuel Spencer Gitla Perkal*	12 13 13 14 16 17 18 18 18	Besse Gold Benjamin Lapides* Alexander Phillips Simon Pogal* Jacob Rubenstein Sarah Maltinsky* Bernard Falk* * Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque	20 20 21 21 21 23 25

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.

Please Support Our Advertisers



OFFICE: The shul office is checked regularly for mail and messages. The shul 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 make a donation to any one of our funds (General Operating, Kiddush, Library, Torah, Rabbi Aaron Solomon Scholarship, Our Youth, Special Events, 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.

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 months 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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