

BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

February President's Message

Friends,

The month of January ended with Parshat Yitro, which contains the giving of the Ten Commandments. The month of February begins with Parshat Mishpatim, which contains many of the more detailed laws of civil interaction, including the famous "eye for an eye." The parshah starts off with the laws concerning the treatment of slaves. One can ask how the Torah permits the holding of slaves, given the almost universal abhorrence of this practice today. The answer that is usually given is that slavery was the norm in the ancient world – a code of law that outright prohibited slavery would have been too alien and never would have been accepted by the people at that time. One can ask if similar reasoning can be applied to other laws in the Torah that seem strange to us, or out of place with modern times. No less an authority than the Rambam suggested that the laws of animal sacrifice in the Temple were a concession G-d made to the ritual expectations of the day – it would have been too hard to ask the ancient Israelites to jump directly from pagan practices to the prayer and meditation that became the substitute for sacrifices in the Rabbinic period. Of course even the Rambam got into plenty of hot water with his peers for this point of view.

Later in Mishpatim we have the sentence that forms a key part of the Rabbinic view of abortion: "And if men strive together, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart, and yet no harm follow, he shall be surely fined, according as the woman's husband shall lay upon him." That the loss of the woman's fetus is not regarded as a capital offense, but rather one requiring monetary compensation, leads to the Rabbinic view that a fetus does not have the same status as a human being.

Some of the laws that I find most interesting are: "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. If you see the donkey of him that hates you lying under its burden, you shall not pass him by; you shall surely release it with him." – hence it is commanded to come to the aid even of one's enemy. One can wonder if these laws are for the sake of one's enemy – that even an enemy has rights which we are bound to personally respect and uphold; or is it for the sake of the donkey – it is not the poor donkey's fault who he belongs to! Discuss amongst yourselves . . .

If we should come to the aid of our enemies, then so much more for our friends! Let me therefore take a few sentences to thank some of the many who help us all out behind the scenes at BHBI. For the last year and a half Laura Levinson has been sending out our yahrzeit reminders. Laura will soon be handing this important job over to Herb Spencer, who has graciously volunteered to continue. As many of you know, Laura has been recovering from heart valve replacement surgery earlier this Fall. Both she and Charles are doing well and are now moving into an apartment at their daughter's house. Our many thanks go to both Laura and Herb. The kiddush committee is now up to a contingent of four, with the addition of Andrea Paprocki. Andrea has already prepared her first kiddush for us last month, and all agreed it a very nice spread. Kol ha-kavod Andrea! Of course there is always room for additional volunteers, so don't be shy!

See you in shul,

Steve Teitel

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – February 2008

Friday	Feb 1	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 5:03 PM.
Saturday	Feb 2	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Blessing of the new month Torah: Mishpatim
Sunday	Feb 3	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Friday	Feb 8	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 5:13 PM.
Saturday	Feb 9	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Services with Congregants from Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Terumah
Sunday	Feb 10	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Monday	Feb 11	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting
Wednesday	Feb 13	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Joint Torah Study Session at BHBI
Friday	Feb 15	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 5:22 PM.
Saturday	Feb 16	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Tetzaveh
Sunday	Feb 17	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Friday	Feb 22	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 5:31 PM.
Saturday	Feb 23	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Ki Tisa
Sunday	Feb 24	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Friday	Feb 29	8:00 AM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 5:40 PM.

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, February 13th. Come and enjoy interesting conversation and make new friends while gain new insights into Torah! All are welcome.

☆☆

**Some of you may have noticed some new faces at services lately.
They belong to our newest members:
Steve and Helen Gulack
Sherwood Snyder**

The next time that you see them, welcome them to the BHBI family!



THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 5 Steve and Ruth Teitel in memory of Ruth's father, Jack Glazer
January 12 The Congregation
January 19 Jill Clark in memory of her father, Stanley Clark
January 26 The Congregation



TO OUR DONORS -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

Ira Cohen

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In memory of Louis Gastel
Ruth and David Polur

In memory of Dvora Brodie
Dave Rogachefsky

RABBI AARON SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Esther Solomon
James Mancuso

TORAH FUND

In honor of the bar mitzvah of Judith and Art Mercer's grandson
Charles and Laura Levinson

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.

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!

WHAT'S WITH ADAR?

You may have noticed that this year there are 2 months of Adar. That's because this is a leap year for the Jewish calendar (and incidentally, it's also a leap year in the secular calendar). In Jewish leap years, we add an additional month of Adar so that there is a month called Adar I followed by a month called Adar II. In Ashkenazi custom, yahrzeits of individuals who pass away during a regular month of Adar are commemorated in Adar I. However, Purim is celebrated in Adar II and bar and bat mitzvahs of children born in a regular month of Adar are traditionally celebrated in Adar II as well.

Adar (or in leap years, Adar II) is considered a month of joy. Indeed, as the month progresses, we expect to encounter more and more joy and happiness. The joy of Adar culminates in the celebration of the miracle of Purim, which this year falls on Thursday evening and Friday, March 20th and 21st.

FEDERATION-SPONSORED PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Zikaron Trip of Remembrance

Teens are invited to apply for this terrific opportunity to travel with other teens to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on **Sunday, March 30th**. On this one-day, Zikaron Trip of Remembrance, teens will travel to the Museum where survivors of the Holocaust will accompany them on a tour of the site. Teens will also be included in our community's Yom HaShoah commemoration in late spring. This program receives generous support from the Mona Friedman Kolko Family Fund. Applications are available on-line at <http://www.jewishrochester.org/getfile.asp?id=22528> and must be received by February 19th. For more information, contact Josh Boress at 461-0490 ext. 249 or by e-mail at jboress@jewishrochester.org

Gift of Israel Program

The Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester continues to sponsor the Gift of Israel Program which offers matching funds which can be applied for Israel trips by Jewish youth. Children can be enrolled in the program while they are between 3rd grade and 6th grade. Parents make an annual contribution to the program which is matched dollar for dollar by the Federation up to \$150 annually. By joining the Gift of Israel Program, your child has the potential to receive matching funds of up to \$1200 for a future Israel experience. For more information, contact Josh Boress at 461-0490 ext. 249 or by e-mail at jboress@jewishrochester.org

Scholarships for Youth Programs

The Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester is pleased to announce the availability of need-based and incentive awards for Jewish young people between the ages of 13 and 21 participating in accredited Israel programs. In addition to Israel trips, funds may be applied to other upcoming Jewish travel experiences, Jewish high school programs, and college courses with Jewish content. Spring distributions will be made for programs to take place during the summer of 2008 or during the next academic year. The deadline for applications is March 23, 2008. For a full description of the scholarship guidelines, contact Jan Katz, JCF Jewish Education Services Director by phone at 461-0490 or by e-mail at jkatz@jewishrochester.org

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**

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.

February 1 - 2	Shevat-Adar I	February 8 - 9	Adar I	February 15 - 16	Adar I	February 22 -23	Adar I
Marian Bernstein*	27	Philip Schiff*	3	Edith Berkowitz*	10	Edna Astrachan*	19
Ada Goldstein*	27	Anna Solomon	3	Samuel Goldstein*	10	Sam Malina*	19
Samuel Keyfetz*	27	Betty Glaser	4	Fanny Techler		Anna Steinmetz*	19
Lottie Fink*	29	Anna Ruderman*	4	Levinson*	10	Louis Rickler*	20
Rose Ring*	29	Hyman Sablowsky*	4	Max Metlay	10	Harry Aronow*	21
Henrietta Schaffer	30	Celia Lapides*	5	Nachema Pincus	10	Leila Markus*	21
Boris Schwarts	30	Anna Ainspan	6	Rose Riwkin*	13	Herman Sarachan*	21
Sam Finkelstein*	1	Dora Newell*	6	Gussie Gillenson		Percy Cohen*	22
Paula Lewin	2	William Schwartz*	6	Bernstein*	15		
Werner Schaffer	2			Irvin Boyer*	15		
				Stanley Muszynski*	15	Feb 29 – March 1	Adar I
				Haskall Isaac Smith*	15		
				Abraham Alderman*	16	Ida Sallerson Levine*	25
						Barnet Stern*	26
						Harris Priceman*	27
						Rebecca Cohen*	28
						Eva Friedman*	28
						Karoline Hess*	28
						Sarah Shulsky*	28
						Sadie Rose	29

* 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.

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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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