BHBIRochester.org Published Monthly Vol 42/No 10 Av-Elul 5768 August 2008

Congregation Beth Hamedresh - Beth Israel

BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

August President's Message

Friends,

Our first Simon Finkelman Memorial Shabbaton was a great success! Over 30 people turned out for Shabbat evening dinner and services to welcome our special guest, Rabbi Shamai Kanter. Attendance at Saturday services and the following lecture was even higher. We were joined by Simon's wife Ella, and we were especially happy that Simon's daughter Triss and her husband Bob were able to come all the way from New York City. Our most distant participants were former members, the Anbars, who came all the way from Arizona! Rabbi Kanter's two talks, one on the weekly Torah portion and one on a particular prayer in the daily liturgy, spoke to the essence of what it means to live a Jewish life. Both talks were thought provoking and very well received. It is clear we have set a high standard for future Shabbatons in this series! I would like to thank everyone who turned out for this very fitting memorial to our dear friend Simon. I would like especially to thank Rabbi Kanter for generously sharing his time with us, Harry Rogachefsky for sponsoring the lavish Saturday kiddush, and Judith Mercer, Emily Fishman, Janet Grable and Jeff Nidetz who helped with food preparation and setup for the dinner and kiddush.

Coming up in August we will celebrate the 102nd birthday of Rabbetzin Mrs. Esther Solomon! All members and friends are invited to the birthday celebration Sunday, August 3, from 1 to 4 pm in the Atkins Center of the Jewish Home. Our Tisha B'Av service will take place this year at BHBI on Saturday evening August 9. A light meal and study session will begin at 8:00 p.m., followed by the service at 9:05 p.m. The study session and service will be held jointly with our friends from Temple Beth David. Our annual new members barbecue has been postponed from its usual time in August to early September, so please look for further information in our September Bulletin.

As many of you may have already heard, Temple Beth David of Irondequoit is currently considering relocating to Brighton and has approached BHBI about the possibility of a merger or partnership. The relocation of Temple Beth David would clearly impact BHBI no matter how we decide to respond. In consultation with the Board, I have therefore decided to appoint a Strategic Planning Committee to assess the current state of our Congregation and consider options for our future. I have asked Leon Metlay, Judith Mercer, Stan Schaffer, and Janet Grable to serve on this committee. I will chair the committee. Please feel free to contact me, or any member of the committee, if you have questions or concerns. Of course no action to alter the constitution, character or location of our Congregation will take place without open discussion and a vote by the membership.

See you in shul,

Steve Teitel

Check out our website at www.BHBIRochester.org You won't be disappointed!

Indeed, our web site is so popular that it has had over 3,600 'hits' since it was started about 2 years ago! When you go to the web site you will find an interesting history of BHBI and the Rochester Jewish community, information about services and upcoming events, photos from past BHBI events, an on-line version of this and past bulletins, our very own Adon Olam songbook, and much, much more!

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – AUGUST 2008

Friday	Aug 1	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services Light candles at 8:12 PM.			
Saturday	Aug 2	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Masei			
Sunday	Aug 3	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion			
		1-4 PM	Birthday Celebration for Mrs. Esther Solomon at the Jewish Home			
Friday	Aug 8	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services with Congregants from Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 8:03 PM			
Saturday	Aug 9	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Services with Congregants from Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Devarim			
		8:00 PM	Light Meal and Joint Pre-Tisha b'Av Study Session with Congregants from Temple Beth David at BHBI			
		9:05 PM	Joint Tisha b'Av Service with Congregants from Temple Beth David at BHBI			
Sunday	Aug 10	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion			
Monday	Aug 11	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting			
Wednesday	Aug 13	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Joint Torah Study Session at BHBI			
Friday	Aug 15	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Services at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 7:53 PM			
Saturday	Aug 16	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Vaetchanan			
Sunday	Aug 17	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion			
Friday	Aug 22	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 7:42 PM.			
Saturday	Aug 23	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Eikev			
Sunday	Aug 24	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion			
Friday	Aug 29	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 7:31 PM.			
Saturday	Aug 30	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Re'ei Blessing for the new month			
Sunday	Aug 31	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion			

When was the last time that you heard news of Israel from the source?

If you are relying on the general news medial to give you a picture of what is happening in Israel, you are missing a lot and getting a very skewed idea of what's happening! To get a much more complete picture of life in Israel, consider subscribing to the Jerusalem Post International Edition which is published weekly or checking out the internet web sites of the Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com), Haaretz (www.haaretz.com) or Y-Net (www.ynetnews.com). You can also go to the link to the English language broadcast of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's daily television news program. Check it out at www.iba.org.il

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.

Aug 1-2	Av	Aug 15-16	Av	Aug 22-23	Av	Aug 29-30	Av-Elul
Sydney Gold	1	Samuel Gross	15	Morris Ohl*	21	Harry Eber*	30
Louis Schiff*	1	Abraham Heyman*	17	Sarah Applebaum		Bernard W. Engel*	30
Ray Bloch	2	Phillip Boyarsky*	18	Gastel*	22	Rose Gordon	30
Benjamin Bobb	2	Jennie Braime*	20	Israel Osband*	22	Paul Snyder	1
Joseph Greenbaum*	2	Abraham I. Spector*	20	Bessie Gastel*	25	Eva Lederman*	2
Moses Berkowitz*	3	Alexander Aronov	21	Rose T. Cohen	26	Albert Joffe*	4
Dave Kovel	5			Jacob Osband*	26	Harold Krinsky*	4
Kathy Shur*	5			Samuel Wechsler*	26	Ethel Strom*	4
-				Ruben Klein*	27	Tanya Yudelson	5
Aug 8-9	Av			Esther Marker*	27		
	0			Sarah Weisenberg*	28		
Anna Berman*	8						
George Cohen*	8						
William Aaron							
Bernstein*	9						
Haim Menachem Levy	12	* Denotes name					
Hyman Silverman*	12	memorialized on					
Frank Carper*	13	BHBI Memorial					
Sarah R. Spector*	13	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.

PORTRAIT OF THE ROCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY

In 1999, the Jewish Community Federation researched and put together a portrait of the Rochester Jewish community which was released the following year. This important document illustrates the demographic trends that are affecting our community. Important findings from the document include the following:

- In 1999, Jews constituted 3% of the Monroe County population. Brighton was 17% Jewish while Pittsford was 14% Jewish. A smaller proportion of the Jewish community currently lives in Brighton and Pittsford than was the case in 1988.
- The size of the portion of the Jewish community living in Brighton declined by 20% (from 14,300 to 10,200) between 1988 and 1999 while the portion living in Pittsford rose by 18% (from 3,300 to 3,900) in the same time period.
- The median age of Jews living in Brighton was 48 years compared to a median age of 41 years for Jews living in Pittsford. 26% of Jews living in Brighton were age 65 or over compared to 12% for Pittsford.
- Over half of adult children who grew up in our Jewish community now live outside Monroe County.
- In 1999, 41% of local Jews considered themselves Reform, compared to 25% who considered themselves Conservative, 6% who considered themselves Orthodox, and 29% who considered themselves 'Just Jewish'. Compared to 1986, the percentage of Conservative Jews has declined significantly, from 38% to 25% of the community. The percentage of Reform and Orthodox Jews has not changed significantly, but the percentage of 'Just Jews' has increased from 20% to 29%.
- 62% of marriages within the Jewish community are between 2 people who were both born Jews, 30% involve intermarriages between a Jewish spouse and a non-Jewish spouse who has not converted to Judaism, and 8% of marriages are between a spouse who was born Jewish and a spouse who converted to Judaism.
- 1/3 of single local Jews do not think it is important that the person who they marry be Jewish.

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

June 5	Ira Cohen in honor of his brother, Peter Cohen's 60th birthday	\wedge
June 12	The Congregation	
June 19	Harry Rogachefsky in honor of Rabbi Shamai Kanter and in support	ХХ
_	of the Simon Finkelman Memorial Shabbaton	\leftarrow
June 26	Karen Schulman in memory of her mother, Louise Ruth Schulman	\vee

TO OUR DONORS -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! RABBI AARON SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory Sam Solomon Ben and Muriel Hobel

In memory of Pauline Hobel Ben and Muriel Hobel

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Louise Schulman Karen Schulman

In memory of Simon Finkelman Nelly Vishnagorsky

Thanking the Congregation for an aliyah Norman and Jane Rushefsky

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

AMAZON.COM

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 or your family and support BHBI at the same time!!

TISHA B'AV

What is the significance of Tisha b'Av? Tisha b'Av, or the 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av, is a day of mourning and a fast day because of the many calamities that have befallen the Jewish people on that date. The ancient First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians on Tisha b'Av as was the Second Temple by the Romans in 70CE. Bar Kochba's rebellion was put down on Tisha b'Av in 135 CE with a terrible massacre of huge proportions. In 1492, Tisha b'Av was the date by which the Jews had to leave Spain, lest they be caught in the Inquisition if they stayed. Finally, World War I, a conflict that uprooted many Jewish communities, also started on Tisha b'Av. This year, Tisha b'Av starts on the evening of Saturday, August 9th, and we will be having a joint program with congregants from Temple Beth David at BHBI that evening.

Do you have friends who are unaffiliated?

Tell them about BHBI and let them know that BHBI is Rochester's friendliest congregation! Then invite them to attend any of our services – they will be sure to get a wonderful welcome. In addition, this year we are offering a free 3-month trial membership including free High Holy Day tickets to individuals and families who have not previously been members of BHBI and who have not previously purchased High Holy Day tickets at BHBI. Tell your friends about this great offer!

A message from the coordinator of Yahrzeit reminders, Herbert Spencer.

The month of September/Elul will mark 6 months since I began sending out yahrzeit notices. As we approach the High Holiday Season, I would like to remind you all that, if you received the notice from me and there was an error, please let me know so that I may correct it. If during the last 6 months you have had a yahrzeit and have not received a notice but would like to receive notices in the future, kindly let me know. By the same token if you wish to have your loved ones' names removed from the yahrzeit reminder list, also let me know. Everything is now computerized so it is easy to add and remove data. My E-Mail address is hspence1@rochester.rr.com should you wish to contact me, or you may contact me by phone at 334-7493. Have a very Healthy and Happy Holiday.

Torah Study

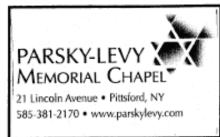
Join friends from BHBI, Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David for an interesting evening of Torah Study at BHBI at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13th. Come and enjoy interesting conversation and make new friends while gaining new insights into Torah! All are welcome.

Please Support Our Advertisers









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

<u>OFFICE</u>: 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 making 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. 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 months can now be found on our web page: www.BHBIRochester.org

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

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