

BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

May President's Message

Friends,

First, I want to thank Steve Teitel for the wonderful job he did as President and for all the work he will continue to do for the congregation. My thanks also to all who put their time, effort and love into BHBI.

I suppose in this year of challenges, it's appropriate that BHBI gets with the "green" trend by doing more recycling. In my case, I'm the first recycled president since at least the 1980's. The previous time I was president was roughly 20 years ago. Since that time, a lot of things have changed. Some very basic things have stayed the same.

We were small 20 years ago, we're even smaller now. We have become the smallest of the Conservative synagogues in Rochester. Recruiting new members was an issue then and it still is. The fact that the majority of our members were not members of this congregation 20 years ago is an indication that we have succeeded in recruiting new members. We need to continue to do so.

The hottest and most divisive topic 20 years ago was the amount of participation by women in our services. That, at least, seems to have been settled. We now have complete participation by women in our services. In this we have followed the trend of the majority of Conservative synagogues. What will the hot topic be for the coming year?

Our size has become a major issue. The various jobs that need to be done to keep us functioning are being done by a smaller and smaller cadre of people. We usually get a minyan on Saturday mornings, but all other services are problematic. We need more members. At the same time, the demographic trend in the Rochester Jewish community is for fewer people to identify themselves as Conservative. We can compensate somewhat for our size by increased participation. Getting a minyan on Shabbat morning means that 20-25% of our membership is attending regularly, which is astonishingly good. We also need additional people to sign up for our various committees.

One potential solution to the problem of decreasing size would be merger with another congregation. Both Beth David and Beth Am are considering moving and have had at least preliminary discussions with us about merger. Over the course of the year we are going to be increasing joint activities with both of them, both as a way to assure minyans at services and as an opportunity for our members to get to know each other. Mergers between congregations carry risks, especially when you are the smaller partner coming into the merger. When there are differences in custom, compromises are necessary, and there is a risk that some important custom or activity will get lost. The way I see to minimize this is for our members to be very active in the dialogue. If we sit back and let the other parties define the terms, we will lose out. Don't just say "If we don't keep such and so, I'm leaving." That doesn't help. All our members are valuable, we can't afford to lose anyone. If something is important to you, make a case for it, get involved in the discussion, make sure your voice is heard. But, realize that, as we face our challenges, whether or not we merge with anyone, compromises are going to happen.

There are important ways you can help me. First and foremost: get involved and stay involved. Second, if there is an issue important to you, make sure I'm aware of it. I tend to focus on what I think is important and I may miss something that other people value, unless they bring it to my attention. Third: don't let me get away with procrastination. It is my major failing as an administrator. I always say "I'll get around to it". I think that 2009 will be an important year for our shul. I'm looking forward to working with you to make it a good year.

B'shalom,

Leon Metlay

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JUNE 2009

Friday	June 5	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at BHBI Light candles at 8:28 PM
Saturday	June 6	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Nasso
Sunday	June 7	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	June 8	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting
Wednesday	June 10	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study Session at BHBI
Friday	June 12	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Services with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 8:32 PM
Saturday	June 13	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Behaalotchah
Sunday	June 14	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	June 19	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 8:34 PM
Saturday	June 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shelach Blessing for the New Month
Sunday	June 21	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	June 26	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:35 PM
Saturday	June 27	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Korach
Sunday	June 28	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

BHBI Officers for 2009-2010

President	Leon Metlay
1 st Vice-President	Steve Teitel
2 nd Vice-President	Judith Mercer
Treasurer	Ira Cohen
Financial Secretary	Stan Schaffer
Recording Secretary	Harris Honickman

Members of the Board of Trustees

Emily Fishman
Janet Grable
Helen Gulack
Aline Honickman
Dianne Hooker
Katharine Metlay
Harry Rogachefsky
Herb Spencer

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.

June 5-6	Sivan	June 12-13	Sivan	June 19-20	Sivan-Tammuz	June 26-27	Tammuz
Janet Riwkin Glaser*	14	Sarah Rebecca Gerber*	21	Elsie Cohen	28	Morris Krinsky*	7
Evelyn Goldman		Minnie Marcus*	21	Isadore Goldman*	29	Sarah Shnitman*	9
Kauffman*	17	Nathan Yablin*	21	Gerald Braz	30	Rabbi Aaron	
Louis Maltinsky*	17	Leo Lewin	22	Hyb Jossem*	30	Solomon*	9
Sadie Stolnitz*	17	Fannie Warnick*	23	Marion Bernstein	2	Eva Krinsky*	10
Katherine Weinrib*	17	Louis Sanow*	24	Samuel Hoffman*	2	Jael Stekel	10
Lyons I. Jossem*	18	Ada Gordon*	26	Sara Sarachan*	2	Phillip Morrow*	11
Zus Kaminnik	19	Stella Getz*	27	Rose Joffe*	3	Rachel Rothschild*	11
Esther Senzel*	20	Mary Goldman*	27	Jennie Epstein*	4		
		Betty Newell*	27	David Glasser*	4		
		Eva Wasserman*	27				

* 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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www.jewishseniorlife.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

**THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS
FOR THE MONTH OF MAY**

- May 2 Cathy Block in honor of her husband, Winston Block's birthday
- May 9 Jill Clark in memory of her grandfather, Sam Gastel
- May 16 Cathy Block in memory of her husband's father, Max Block
- May 23 Janet Grable in honor of a year's worth of BHBI members' birthdays and anniversaries
- May 30 Janet Grable in honor of Shavuot

TO OUR DONORS -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Harry Gordon

Phil and Annette Garver

TORAH FUND

In honor of Steve Teitel

Ira Cohen

RABBI AARON SOLOMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of David Gurell

Ben and Muriel Hobel



TORAH STUDY

Join congregants from Temple Beth Am, Temple Beth David and BHBI for our monthly Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session at BHBI on Wednesday evening, June 10th at 7:30 p.m. The discussion is always lively and engaging!

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.

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!!

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

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

We welcome book reviews on topics related to Judaism or Israel. To submit a book review, contact Stan Schaffer.

The Thirteenth Tribe by Arthur Koestler

In this historical book of non-fiction, author Arthur Koestler writes about the Khazars, a tribe of Turkic extraction who developed a kingdom of traders located astride the Caspian Sea shortly after the rise of Islam. Since the Khazars were settled geographically directly between the Byzantine Eastern Roman Empire with its capital in Constantinople and the Arab Caliphate headquartered in Baghdad, they tried to remain independent of their two stronger neighbors by appearing to favor neither over the other. Thus when given the choice of choosing Christianity or Islam, the Khazar king in the year 740 C.E. instead converted to Judaism and was soon followed in doing so by most of his subjects. The Jewish Khazar kingdom was relatively liberal, welcomed outsiders, and prospered for over 200 years, located as it was on major trade routes between east and west. However, eventually, Russian tribes extended their influence southward toward the Caucasus where the Khazar kingdom was located. After years of conflict with Byzantium, the pagan Russian king converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity in the year 989, after which the Byzantines and Russians turned on the Khazars, reducing them to vassals. Koestler argues that some of the Khazars then fled, resettling in eastern Europe in present day Hungary, Poland and Lithuania and were followed there in the 13th century by a large outmigration of many more Khazars from the Caucasus as the Mongols under Genghis Khan pushed through Asia. Koestler believes that, after their resettlement in Europe, the Khazars then became the fore bearers of the Ashkenazi Jews. This book cites many sources from the Middle Ages, brings up intriguing questions and is an interesting read for anyone who is interested in Jewish history.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Everyone is invited to attend the Jewish Community Federation's annual meeting on Tuesday, June 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El. The keynote speaker will be Michael Bar-Zohar, an Israeli academic, soldier, writer and legislator. He is the official biographer of David Ben Gurion and of Shimon Peres and has also written books of fiction including *Enigma*, which was made into a movie starring Martin Sheen and Derek Jacobi. He served 2 terms in the Knesset. His talk is titled 'Israel in a New Political Landscape'. The Federation's annual meeting will be followed by a dessert reception.

THE FINKELMAN SHABBATON

We are currently planning this year's Finkelman Shabbaton. Once those arrangements are finalized, you will receive information about this year's event.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS UNAFFILIATED AND INTERESTED IN JOINING A CONGREGATION?

Let them know about BHBI's special [free 3 month trial membership](#) (available to prospective first-time new members only). Have them contact BHBI at 244-2060 or BHBI@frontiernet.net and we will be happy to give them information about BHBI and this great offer!!

GET WELL SOON

The congregation wishes a speedy recovery to Esther Vogelstein who was recently hospitalized and to Ben Hobel who is now at the Highlands at Brighton.

ISRAEL INFORMATION SOURCES

The Jerusalem Post Online www.jpost.com
Ha'aretz in English www.haaretz.com
Y-Net News www.ynetnews.com

MEDIA MONITORING SITES

CAMERA www.camera.org
Honest Reporting www.honestreporting.org
MEMRI www.memri.org

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 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

WANT TO GET YOUR BULLETIN HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS? Consider having us e-mail it to you!

Contact Stan Schaffer at: stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel
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