

BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

December President's Message

Friends,

Well, November certainly was a month of ups and downs, or should I say downs and ups? It started with two significant losses. Dianne Hooker, a member of our Board and our volunteer office manager succumbed to cancer early in the month. At about the same time, Ingeborg Vogelstein, mother of Esther Vogelstein, also passed away. Our members helped assure that their loved ones had shiva minyans and food for the week. Once again, we showed we care.

Later in the month was a happier event. Rabbi Goldberg gave the second annual Finkelman lecture. He gave a diachronic and synchronic talk about Jewish music. If you don't know what those words mean, you should have come to the talk. There were about forty people present for the talk including Simon Finkelman's wife and daughters, and guests from Beth Am, Beth David, and the Eastman School of Music. The talk was very well received. Passed on its success, I can confidently assert that this adult education program will continue.

On a more mundane note, we have recently had repairs to our roof, our front columns and pillars have been painted (come over and admire how they gleam!) and the electrical connections have been installed for our access lift. We have a building permit and the lift has been ordered. About a third of the money for the lift has been donated or pledged to date. Think about the people who can't attend our services because of the steps and please contribute to this worthy cause.

Looking ahead, December contains two joyful events. First comes the Bar Mitzvah of Mark Toker. Festivities start at our joint Shabbat service at Temple Beth Am on December 5th when Mark will receive his first aliyah, and continue with the main event at a joint service at our shul on December 12th. Rabbi Goldberg will be officiating at both services.

December 11th is also the first night of Chanukah. Our Chanukah party, held in conjunction with Beth Am, will be on Sunday December 13th at 5 PM. There will be candle lighting, dinner, songs, and games. The reservation form is on page 6 of this bulletin. Please come!

I wish you all a Happy Chanukah. See you in shul.

Leon Metlay

SO FAR OUR WHEELCHAIR LIFT FUND HAS BROUGHT IN ABOUT \$4,000!!

SINCE THE COST OF THE LIFT IS \$11,700 WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

**HAVE YOU MADE YOUR CONTRIBUTION YET?
IF NOT, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO TODAY!**

SEE THE PLEDGE FORM ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 2 OF THIS BULLETIN.

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2009

Friday	Dec 4	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 4:17 PM
Saturday	Dec 5	10:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Services with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg officiating Torah: Vayishlach
Sunday	Dec 6	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Dec 9	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study Session at BHBI
Friday	Dec 11	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg officiating Light candles at 4:16 PM
Saturday	Dec 12	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI - Bar Mitzvah of Mark Toker Rabbi Goldberg officiating Blessing for the new month. Torah: Vayeishev
Sunday	Dec 13	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion Combined BHBI - Beth Am Chanukah Party at BHBI
Monday	Dec 14	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	Dec 18	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:18 PM
Saturday	Dec 19	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Miketz
Sunday	Dec 20	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Dec 25	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:22 PM
Saturday	Dec 26	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Vayigash
Sunday	Dec 27	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

**HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE ACCESS TO BHBI FOR OUR
DISABLED MEMBERS – MAKE A DONATION
TODAY TO HELP US BUY A WHEELCHAIR
LIFT!**

Name(s): _____ Donation Amount: \$ _____



Send this form to BHBI, 1369 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14610 along with
your special donation for the wheelchair lift today!



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

By

RABBI GEOFFREY GOLDBERG

December 2009 – Chanukah 5770

For the past two years the world's biggest menorah has been erected on 5th Avenue and 59th Street, by Central Park in Manhattan, New York City. It is 32 feet high, gold covered, made out of 4,000 lbs of steel. It will be no surprise if an even larger one will be erected some time. Strangely, information about the size of the original (seven, not eight-branch) menorah of the Tabernacle as was not provided by the Torah (see Exodus 25:31–40), but if the relief of the menorah of the Second Temple as depicted in the Arch of Titus in Rome is any indication, it was not particularly large. For it was the message, not the medium, of the light of the menorah that was of significance.

Mega-sized menorahs are but symptomatic of what has been happening to Chanukah in contemporary America. Every year Chanukah seems to get bigger and bigger, and longer and longer. In New York City *hanukkiot* light up the windows of stores, along with all the glitter and symbols of Christmas, starting after Thanksgiving and lasting until the end of the twelve days of... well, you know. What ever happened to the Eight Days of Chanukah? Every year we seem to be outdoing non-Jews at this festive season. Even with the severe recession dripping the country, one doubts that much will change.

The harsh truth is that Chanukah is but a minor festival, but one with a powerful message. We pervert its message when we try to compete with celebrations of our non-Jewish neighbors. Chanukah and big just don't go. Chanukah is small and beautiful. It is about the little oil, enough for one day, which miraculously lasted for eight days. It is about the power of light and how a small flame can be seen, even in great darkness, from a great distance, and how a small flame can inspire great hope and determination.

Chanukah's message is summed up in the verse from the Prophet Zechariah, which will be read this year on First Shabbat Chanukah (December 12) *lo ve-hayyil, ve-lo ve-kboah, ki im be-rubi, amar adonay tzeva'ot.* "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, says the Lord of Hosts."

There is a debate in the Talmud between Hillel and Shammai about how the Chanukah lights should be lit. Hillel said that we should light one on the first night, two on the second, thus increasing by one light every night. Shammai, on the other hand, said that we should start with eight candles the first night, seven the second, diminishing by one light every night.

It would seem that Shammai was following a principle that he cherished very dearly, namely, telling the truth. Following Shammai we might say that the truth is that we live in a world with ever-diminishing expectations. Some of the dreams we might have had in our youth become increasingly difficult to materialize. The moment we are born we begin to die. Each day brings us closer to our last day. Shammai was a harsh realist, and because of this felt that the light diminishes each successive day.

Hillel, however, had a deeper perception of what constitutes truth. The deeper truth is that our lives become ever richer and fuller with the passage of time, and not increasingly diminished. The light of Chanukah reminds us of the potential that lies within each moment. The present can be filled with light and that light can increase no matter where we are in the span of our lives. Like life, light can pierce any darkness. And just as we kindle increasing numbers of lights each night of Chanukah, yet the light of none is diminished, when we help raise the spirit of others, our spirit is in no way lessened. On the contrary, it is increased.

So it became the custom to follow Hillel's opinion that we light an additional light each night to make known the miracle of Chanukah: that is, our light can grow exceedingly bright beyond any reasonable expectations.

Hag urim sameah,

Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

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.

December 5-6	Kislev	December 11-12	Kislev- Tevet	December 18-19	Tevet	December 25-26	Tevet
Edward M. Hart	19	Sarah Hoffman*	25	Morris Kanthor*	3	Selman Kauffman Lansky*	9
Rose Alderman*	20	Hyman Snyder*	25	Morton Fink*	4	William Silverstein*	10
Hyman Ring*	20	Michael Miller*	27	Belle Lipsky	4	Maurice Bloom*	11
Ernst Beutler	21	Emma Aronow*	28	Abraham Weinstein*	4	Manuel Miller*	11
Ida Taub	22	Karen Cohen	28	Abraham Stolnitz*	5	Sadie Aberman*	12
Ida Bobb	24	Rose Marcus	28	Barbara Bertman*	6	Sol Lazarus*	12
				Sigmund Traub*	6	Fannie Osband*	13
				Meriam Jossem*	7	Celia Suskind*	14
				David Goodman*	8	Dora Rogovin*	15
		* 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.

MEALS ON WHEELS SURVEY

The Meals on Wheels Organization in Rochester is trying to determine the current and future demand for pre-prepared kosher meals to be sent to seniors in the Jewish community. In order to assist them with this task, you will find a short survey about Meals on Wheels in the BHBI lobby. The next time that you're in shul, please take one home, fill it out, and send it back to Meals on Wheels.

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!!

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rochester's Jewish Funeral Home</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Establishing a New Tradition</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Graveside, Temple or Chapel Services. Now respectfully maintaining the PARSKY records.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jarrod M. Krieger <i>owner & 4th generation Rochesterian</i> www.BrightonMemorialChapel.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">427-8520 3325 Winton Road South S/W corner of Jefferson & Winton Rds</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RUHL FUNERAL HOME</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2793 CULVER ROAD ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14622</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TEL. 585.342.8111 DOUGLAS M. RUHL IF NO ANSWER 585.739.2655 FUNERAL DIRECTOR DMRUHL@ROCHESTER.RR.COM</p>
---	---

**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**

TO OUR DONORS -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

WHEELCHAIR LIFT FUND

*Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky
Steve and Ruth Teitel
Phil and Annette Garver
Herb Spencer
Stan and Elaine Schaffer
Nellya Vishnagorsky
Joe Yudelson*

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Herb Spencer

RABBI GOLDBERG FUND

*Ira Cohen
Peg Toker*
In honor of Leon Metlay's birthday
Katharine Metlay

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Dianne Hooker

*Steve and Ruth Teitel
Harlene and Victor Gilels
Herb Spencer
Peg Toker
Ruth Kramer
Ann and Hal Kanthor
Jeff, Lyn and Gavi Springut
Mel and Sharon Diamond
Stan and Elaine Schaffer
Elizabeth Sloma
Joanne and Chris Keely
Jennifer Kanthor
Martin and Penny Lustik*

In memory of Joseph Teitel

*Stan and Elaine Schaffer
Herb Spencer*

In memory of Ingeborg Vogelstein

*Stan and Elaine Schaffer
Peg Toker*

In memory of Harry and Ray Toker

Peg Toker

THE RABBI GOLDBERG FUND

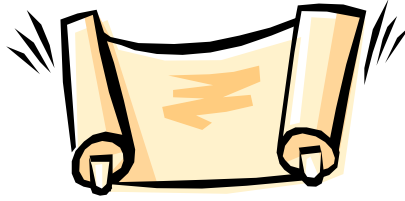
We have recently started a Rabbi Goldberg Fund to enable us to engage Rabbi Goldberg to lead additional services at BHBI during the year in addition to the previously scheduled 16 joint services that he will be leading for BHBI and Temple Beth Am. Whenever the funds in the Rabbi Goldberg Fund reach a predetermined level, we will schedule an additional service with Rabbi Goldberg. To contribute to the Rabbi Goldberg Fund, please send a check in to BHBI with a notation that the contribution should be used for the Rabbi Goldberg Fund.

NEWS FLASH: MATCHING GIFTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RABBI GOLDBERG FUND THROUGH 12/31/09

An anonymous donor will match any contributions up to a total of \$500 made to the Rabbi Goldberg Fund from December 1, 2009 until December 31, 2009. Make your contribution to the Rabbi Goldberg Fund today and see your money go twice as far! Remember that whenever we get contributions of \$400 to the fund we can arrange to have Rabbi Goldberg officiate at another service.

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, December 9th 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.

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



THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

- November 14 Sherwood Snyder in memory of his mother, Harriet Snyder, and Katie Metlay in memory of her mother, Fanny Titof
- November 21 Steve and Ruth Teitel in memory of Steve’s mother, Eleanor Teitel
- November 28 Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of Leon’s birthday and the birthdays of their nieces Katharine and Robyn

JOIN US FOR THE JOINT BHBI – BETH AM CHANUKAH PARTY AT BHBI ON DECEMBER 13TH



The party starts at 5:00 P.M. with candle lighting at 5:30 P.M.

We’ll be having latkes and blintzes, games and songs.

Cost \$8 for adults and children age 13 and over; \$4 for kids under 13
Family max = \$20

Reservations required by Wednesday, December 9th

Make your reservation now and don’t forget your menorahs!

Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____ adults; _____ children Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send your reservation to BHBI, 1369 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610



The Jewish Community Federation will be conducting a population study of the Greater Rochester Jewish community early in 2010. It will be the first time that the community will be surveyed in a decade. The plan is to survey every member of our community including those who are unaffiliated. The study welcomes everyone to contribute their opinions and input. To further encourage participation, everyone who completes the survey will be entered into special prize drawings. The study, sponsored by the Federation with substantial financial support from Jewish Senior *Life*, will include several in-depth questions for those helping to make planning decisions for aging parents, as well as those planning for their own retirement needs. Additional questions will explore the needs of interfaith families, singles, teens, and other key sub-populations. And then there's the issue of our numbers: How has the size of our community changed since our community's last demographic study in 1999?

The study will be conducted via the Internet, although volunteers will be available at sites in the Jewish community to assist anyone not comfortable with completing their survey online. There will also be a telephone-based option. The community will be notified by mail and email, and through flyers and advertisements, once the survey goes live.

Volunteers are needed to assist members of the community who want to complete the survey but need help with the computer data input. The Federation needs volunteers who are willing to interview survey respondents over the phone and input their responses using a home computer; and volunteers with laptops who are willing to meet with respondents at pre-arranged times and input their responses face to face. If you can volunteer during a 6-8 week period in January – February 2010, please contact Susan Gagnon at the Jewish Community Federation, 461-0490, ext. 242 or sgagnon@jewishrochester.org.

SUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, December 6th is the Jewish Community Federation's Super Sunday. Please be generous when the Super Sunday volunteer calls to ask for your pledge!!

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!!

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 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, Rabbi Goldberg 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 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
1369 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610