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**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

# BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

## **November President's Message**

Friends,

The new buzz word these days is “Thanksgivukkah”, a combination of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. That’s because the first day of Hanukkah this year is Thanksgiving, an event that won’t take place again within our lifetimes. The Jewish calendar gets slightly behind the solar calendar (about 2 hours longer every 19 years, about 4 days every 1000 years) so dates of all the holidays are trending later. This year is as early as Hanukkah will ever get, unless there is a calendar reform to correct for the slight error. At least we don’t have to worry about Halloweenukkah! Actually, I’m sure calendar reform will take place sometime in the next couple of centuries to ensure that Passover continues falling in the Spring. Meanwhile, people are talking about latkes and deep-fried turkey for Thanksgiving.

I have recently been reading parts of The Sages by Rabbi Binyamin Lau. His discussion of Hanukkah tells that the earliest history of Hanukkah is given in the two books of Maccabees. They are part of the apocrypha, preserved in Greek in the Christian Bible, and are not part of our Tanach. They were both probably written shortly after the events they describe. Maccabees I is a military history, detailing the military victories of the Maccabees, including the capture and rededication of the Temple, barely mentioning G-d. Maccabees II has a more religious orientation, it gives the reason for the eight day celebration as a delayed celebration of Sukkot, which was missed earlier because of the defilement of the Temple. Neither of these books says anything about a container of oil burning eight days. Rabbi Lau’s discussion continues with the fact that, unlike all other holidays, Hanukkah is barely discussed in the Mishnah. The Mishnah was first written down in the period just after the disastrous Bar Kochba rebellion. He suggests that the rabbis of the time of the Mishnah wanted to de-emphasize the idea of national liberation, possibly to avoid further antagonizing the Romans. The miracle of the oil is found in the discussion in the Babylonian Talmud, written down centuries later. The Talmud discussion almost eliminates discussion of the military aspects of the holiday. With those changes Hanukkah was changed from a holiday of military victory and national liberation into a holiday of Jewish bravery and endurance, supported by G-d, a holiday tailored to life in the diaspora. Rabbi Lau discusses how, with the founding of the State of Israel, the military aspect of Hanukkah was revived, with the comparison of the Maccabees to the armies of the new State. He concludes his discussion by stating that both aspects of Hanukkah, that bravery of stubborn survival in dark times and the bravery of action to maintain independence are both important.

At the end of September, at the Jewish-Muslim dialogue session about holidays, Rabbi Simeon Kolko gave a very good short summary of the major Jewish holy days, and didn’t mention Hanukkah. Hanukkah was brought up during the question and answer session by one of the Turkish participants who had gotten the impression (as many non-Jews do) that Hanukkah is a major holiday. I’m sure this topic will come up again in the next Jewish-Muslim dialogue on November 24<sup>th</sup> at BHBI where we will be discussing how we maintain our traditions as minority groups in the USA. I hope we will see you there.

There will be a Hanukkah party again this year, held jointly with Temple Beth Am, at BHBI, on the Sunday evening during Hanukkah, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please join us for a fun time.

Another thing to look for in the calendar is a change in our Friday night service times. Our services on the first Friday of the month, at Heather Heights, will continue to be at 7 PM, as will our second Friday services, at Temple Beth Am. Starting in November, our services on the third, fourth, and fifth Fridays will also be at 7 PM. This will make it easier for those who want to have a leisurely Shabbat dinner after services rather than rushing through dinner before services.

On October 27, there was a ceremony, led by Rabbi Shaya Kilimnick from Congregation Beth Shalom, at which several Jewish sections of Mt. Hope Cemetery were rededicated, including a couple of sections belonging to BHBI. New boundary markers were set in these sections. This work was undertaken by the Friends of Mt. Hope, especially Mr. Earl Gurrell, whose father, Joe Gurrell, was a member of BHBI many years ago. The work was supported by the Farash Foundation and several donors including BHBI. We have a section in Mt. Hope that has many vacancies. Anyone who is looking for a plot should contact our Cemetery Chair, Steve Teitel.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgivukkah!

*Leon Metlay*

**BHBI is happy to announce its newest members:**

**Ayala Emmett and Jennifer Goldenberg**

**When you see them, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the BHBI family.**

## BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2013

Friday	Nov 1	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 5:43 PM
Saturday	Nov 2	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service      Torah: Toldot
Sunday	Nov 3	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Nov 8	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 4:34 PM
Saturday	Nov 9	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Vayeitzei
Sunday	Nov 10	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Nov 11	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	Nov 15	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:27 PM
Saturday	Nov 16	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service      Torah: Vayishlach
Sunday	Nov 17	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Nov 20	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Nov 22	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:22 PM
Saturday	Nov 23	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service      Torah: Vayeishev
Sunday	Nov 24	10:00 AM	Maintaining Our Traditions and Cultural Identity in 21 <sup>st</sup> Century America. A panel discussion with audience participation as part of our United by Faith Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Series in collaboration with the Turkish Cultural Center, the Peace Islands Institute, Temple Beth David and Temple Beth Am at BHBI. Refreshments to follow.
Friday	Nov 29	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 4:18 PM
Saturday	Nov 30	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Torah: Miketz

### FREE 3-MONTH TRIAL MEMBERSHIP FOR FIRST-TIME NEW MEMBERS

Let your friends 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 [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com) and we will be happy to give them information about BHBI and this great offer!!

### BHBI WEBSITE

Have you checked out the BHBI web site lately? If you haven't there is a lot that you're missing. The web site at [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://www.BHBIRochester.org) provides information about many aspects of our congregation, lists the BHBI calendar, has electronic versions of this and previous bulletins going back several years, has an extensive history of our congregation along with historic photos, includes photos from several BHBI dinners, picnics and other special events, and has the unique Adon Olam Songbook with information on over 100 melodies for Adon Olam.

## BHBI/Beth Am Chanukah Dinner Reservation Form

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at BHBI  
Be sure to bring your menorahs!

5:00 P.M. – The party begins  
5:30 P.M. – Chanukah candle-lighting followed by songs  
6:00 – Dinner and games  
Cost: Adults: \$12, Kids ages 12 and under: \$8, Family Max: \$36  
Bring your friends!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults; \_\_\_\_\_ Children Under 12

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your reservation form to BHBI, 1369 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14610  
to be received no later than November 25<sup>th</sup>.



### DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

#### GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bernard Israel  
*Paul and Rose Israel*

In memory of Celia Israel  
*Paul and Rose Israel*

In memory of Beverly Clark  
*Renee Bertman*

In memory of Tanja Block  
*Cathy Block*

In memory of Sofya Kaminnick  
*Nelly Vishnagorsky*

#### HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

*Katharine Metlay*

## THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

October 5	The Congregation
October 12	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of the 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bernard Klionsky's bar mitzvah
October 19	Ira Cohen in memory of Dianne Hooker
October 26	Hermann and Esther Vogelstein in memory of their mother, Ingeborg Vogelstein

### GOODSEARCH.COM

Goodsearch.com is an on-line internet search program that pays non-profit organizations like BHBI a fee every time someone uses their search service. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), enter the search term that you want and put in BHBI on the line where it says Who Do You Goodsearch For? BHBI will benefit from each search you make!

### SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our next Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah study session will take place at BHBI on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

**The JCC Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival** will be held from November 3-19. For a complete list of events, go to [www.rjbf.org](http://www.rjbf.org)

**A Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht** will be held at the JCC on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public

**The PJ Library's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great Hanukkah Giveaway** will be held this year on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the JCC. There will be lots of activities for children including creation stations, story time, musical events and workshops. Attendees can register in advance for a workshop and can qualify for a free book. RSVP to Shelly Stam ([sstam@jewishrochester.org](mailto:sstam@jewishrochester.org)) by November 15th.



*“United by Faith”*



*A Jewish – Muslim Dialogue Series*

**“Maintaining our Traditions and Cultural Identity in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America”**

Panel discussion with audience participation.  
Refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am**  
**Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**  
**1369 East Avenue**

*Co-sponsored by*

Peace Islands Institute  
Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel  
The Turkish Cultural Center of Rochester  
Temple Beth Am • Temple Beth David

With support from the  
Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation



## 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.

November 1-2	Cheshvan-Kislev	November 8-9	Kislev	November 15-16	Kislev	November 29-30	Kislev-Tevet
Abraham Friedman*	29	Meyer Kovelski*	7	Rachel Olkes*	13	Hannah Langerman	27
Jacob Marker*	29	Fanny Titof	8	Jack Soble*	14	Michael Miller*	27
Rose Nidetz	30	Nathan Bernstein*	9	Bernard Rodney	17	Emma Aranow*	28
Sam Morris*	4	Beatryce Cohen*	9	Edward M. Hart*	19	Karen Cohen	28
Israel Schriba*	4	Howard Goldenberg	9			Morris Kanthor*	3
Jacob Smilack*	4	J. Louis Shapiro*	9	November 22-23	Kislev		
Dorothy Lewis Cohen*	5	Eleanor Teitel	10	Rose Alderman*	20	*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque	
Mark H. Keyfetz*	5	Dr. Mark Blue	11	Hyman Ring*	20		
		Wolf Schild*	12	Ida Bobb	24		
				Sarah Hoffman*	25		
				Hyman Snyder*	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.

*Rochester's Jewish Funeral Home*



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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

### MEMORIAL PLAQUES

You can also memorialize a friend or loved one on a BHBI memorial plaque. Our memorial plaques are very reasonably priced. For more information, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

### MAKE YOUR CHANUKAH GIFT PURCHASES AT AMAZON.COM AND SUPPORT BHBI AT THE SAME TIME!

Why not contribute to BHBI while making on-line gift purchases for Chanukah? It's easy to make purchases on-line at Amazon.com and support BHBI financially at the same time. Just 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 price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes!

### AD SPONSORS

We are always looking for additional businesses that are interested in placing an ad in the BHBI Bulletin. If you know of someone whose business or company may be interested, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or by e-mail at stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

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 [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com)

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 Fund, Kiddush Fund, Harry Rogachefsky BHBI Building Fund, Torah Fund, Rabbi Aaron Solomon Scholarship Fund, Special Events 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 years can now be found on our web page: [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://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](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

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