

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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December President's Message

Friends,

On November 24 we had the third of our Jewish-Muslim dialogue series. Those of you who were there saw and participated in a fantastic program. Those of you who weren't there should seriously consider coming to the next program, tentatively scheduled for February 9th. The topic of this most recent program was maintaining cultural and religious identity in our assimilationist society. Many people told personal stories. I told some of my own history, of a non-religious upbringing, and how important my wife was (Thank you, Nina) to my Jewish connection. That was a recurring theme. It seems like many people's continuing involvement in Judaism is centered on their spouse.

A week earlier I had gone to a meeting for small synagogues in Herkimer, NY, sponsored by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. I want to thank Howard Goldberg of the UCSJ for inviting me, and Bruce Nelson from Temple Beth Am for helping me stay alert on the drive. At that meeting there was a story-telling session at which, also, it seems that spouses and significant others carried a lot of weight in people's religious identification decisions. The yentas were right: "Marry a nice Jewish girl!"

This ties into a book I've been reading recently (yet another book report in the President's message). Relational Judaism by Ron Wolfson is very popular with synagogue leaders. It was recommended to me by several other synagogue Presidents. I don't recommend buying a copy, but it's worth borrowing. In a nutshell, it says that people's connection to Jewish institutions is based on their personal relationships with people in those institutions. There are elaborate schemes of greeters, lunches, coffee meetings, etc. used by various synagogues. Our own version of this is our Shabbat lunch, where people can sit and schmooze over good food after services. Here is where a guest to our shul can get to know us and we hope that will bring him or her back. I want to thank Janet Grable, who instituted the lunches during her presidency, as well as Steve Teitel and Aline Honickman and the crew of food preparers who have kept the lunches coming.

Another point made in the book is that you have to make your relationships where people are, not expect them to come to you. Here is an area we need to work on. You as individuals can talk about us to your Jewish friends, if the opportunity arises. As an institution, what can we do? Are people willing to host coffee klatches in their homes? Should I be meeting prospective members for a bagel at the JCC? Please send me your ideas.

I hope to see you all at the Chanukah party. With Chanukah ending this week, the next holiday isn't until Tu B'Shevat in mid January.

This past week, Myron Kolko, the beloved father of Rabbi Simeon Kolko, passed away. We extend our condolences to him and his family.

B'shalom,

Leon Metlay

**The Jewish Community Federation's Super Sunday is coming up on December 8th.
Please be generous with your pledge when you are called.**

**Do you know who Sylvester was and why he's so well known in Israel?
See Page 3 for the answer.**

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Dec 1	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Dec 6	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 4:16 PM
Saturday	Dec 7	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Vayigash
Sunday	Dec 8	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Dec 9	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	Dec 13	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 4:17 PM
Saturday	Dec 14	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Vayechi
Sunday	Dec 15	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Dec 18	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Dec 20	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:19 PM
Saturday	Dec 21	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Dec 22	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Dec 27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:23 PM
Saturday	Dec 28	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Blessing of the New Month Torah: Vaeirah
Sunday	Dec 29	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

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 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 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.

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our next Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah study session will take place at BHBI on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

DONATIONS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Nathan Goldberg
Phil and Annette Garver

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Joseph Yudelson

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 2	Phil and Annette Garver
November 9	Steve and Ruth Teitel in memory of Steve's mother, Eleanor Teitel Katharine Metlay in memory of her mother, Fannie Titof
November 16	Harris and Aline Honickman in celebration of their 25 th wedding anniversary Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of the birthdays of their nieces Beth Metlay and Robyn and Katharine Carney
November 23	Beth Metlay, Robyn, Katharine and Maxine Carney in honor of Leon Metlay's birthday

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to Rabbi Simeon Kolko and family on the sudden passing of his father, Myron (Mike) Kolko.

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, 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!

BRIGHTON FOOD CUPBOARD

The Brighton Food Cupboard is very low on breakfast cereal, pasta and tuna. Please consider donating to them. There is a box in the BHBI lobby where you can drop off your donation or you can drop food items off at either the Brighton Board on Education Building or at the former Brookside School in Brighton.

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 8 – Super Sunday volunteers are needed. Join in at the Federation to call donors to raise money for the annual UJA Federation Campaign. Teen shift is from 3-5:30 including training and food. Volunteers can register online at <http://www.jewishrochester.org> or by calling the Federation at 461-0490.

WHY DO ISRAELIS CALL THE SECULAR NEW YEAR SYLVESTER?

The slang term for New Years (Dec 31-Jan 1) celebrations in Israel is "*Sylvester*". This term for New Year's night celebrations was the name of the "saint" and Roman Pope who reigned during the Council of Nicaea (325 C.E.). The year before the Council of Nicaea convened, Sylvester convinced Constantine to prohibit Jews from living in Jerusalem. At the Council of Nicaea, Sylvester arranged for the passage of a host of viciously anti-Semitic legislation. All Catholic "saints" are awarded a day on which Christians celebrate and pay tribute to that saint's memory. December 31 is Saint Sylvester Day - hence celebrations on the night of December 31 are dedicated to Sylvester's memory. But why do Israelis use the term? People who immigrated to Israel from western countries still wanted to celebrate the secular New Year like they did previously, but could not say that they were celebrating the New Year so they instead used the Catholic name of the day, Sylvester. That's why Jews in Israel refer to the event by the name of an anti-Semitic Catholic saint.

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 6-7	Tevet	December 13-14	Tevet	December 20-21	Tevet	December 27-28	Tevet - Shevat
Morton Fink*	4	Maurice Bloom*	11	Louis Bernstein*	18	Samuel Meilstein*	26
Belle Lipsky	4	Manuel Miller*	11	Carl Kleinstein*	18	Ida Boyarsky	27
Abraham Weinstein*	4	Gloria Taxon	11	Rose Needler*	18	Philip Hershkowitz*	27
Abraham Stolnitz*	5	Sadie Aberman*	12	Estelle Hirsch*	19	Jack Glazer	28
Barbara Bertman*	6	Sol Lazarus*	12	Shie Schnidman*	19	Joe Lazarus*	28
Sigmund Traub*	6	Fannie Osband*	13	Anna Buff*	21	Jean Spencer	1
Meriam Jossem*	7	Celia Suskind*	14	Benjamin Dvorkin*	21	Morris Weinstein*	2
David Goodman*	8	Dora Rogovin*	15	Goldie Simon*	23		
Selma Kauffman Lansky*	9	Nathan Goldberg	16	Leah Keyfetz*	24		
William Silverman*	10	Fannie Sablowsky*	17	Joseph Morris*	24	*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque	
		Philip Sanzel*	17	Esther Sanzel*	24		
		Joseph Schiff*	17				
		Hannah Senzel*	17				

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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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 PURCHASES AT AMAZON.COM AND SUPPORT BHBI AT THE SAME TIME!

Why not contribute to BHBI while making on-line purchases? 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

Not sure what to give your child or grandchild as a present? Give the Gift of Israel!

The Gift of Israel is a savings program which enables students to receive \$150 during each year of enrollment towards an organized trip for Jewish youth to Israel.

For each year between grades 3-10 that **families contribute \$150 to a child's account, the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester will also contribute \$150; a potential savings of up to \$1,200!**

Enrollment is open to students presently in grades 3-6.

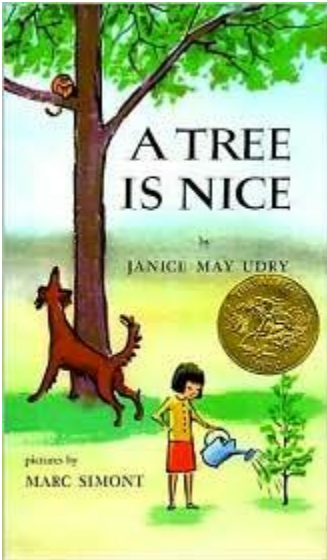
For more information or to set up an account, please contact Rich Gordon, Coordinator of Teen Education and Israel Trips at the Jewish Federation, at (585) 461-0490 or rgordon@jewishrochester.org. You may also access and download information by going to JewishRochester.org and clicking on "Teens."



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES & SONGS FOR FAMILIES

Free Jewish Children's Books Available Now!

Learn about "shalom PJ baby," welcoming new babies into the Rochester Jewish community!



The PJ Library® is here! The PJ Library® (PJ for pajamas, of course) provides a free gift of a high-quality, age appropriate Jewish book or CD mailed to the home every month. This cutting-edge program created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation provides the means for Jewish families to give children the gift of Jewish literacy, a love for literature, music and art.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester, with a generous grant from the **Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation**, are proud to present The PJ Library®!

"There's no catch, no hidden agenda; the books are free" says Federation president Richard Goldstein. "These are beautiful books that will enhance the Jewish life of any young family.

"And you don't have to be a member of any particular synagogue or Jewish organization; PJ is for everyone – members, non-members, two Jewish parents or interfaith couples," Goldstein added. The PJ Library® is for families with children ages 6 months to 8 years.

Sign up for PJ Library today!

Through The PJ Library®, more than 65,000 books are mailed each month in 130 communities across the US and Canada, turning snugly bedtime moments into Jewish moments.

Sign up right here or contact program coordinator Jacqui Lipschitz, jlipschitz@jewishrochester.org or 461-0490, ext. 8651. For more information about The PJ Library®, go to www.pjlibrary.org.

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

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

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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