

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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January President's Message

Friends,

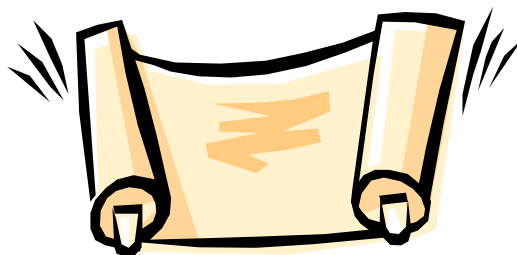
It was good to see so many of you at the Chanukah party. I had a great time (I won the dreidel game this year!) Steve Teitel did a wonderful job, ably assisted by Janet Grable (fantastic cakes!), Judith Mercer, Paula Bobb, Sylvia Rose, Esther Vogelstein, Ami Schmerl and me. Thank you so much.

One thing we've done in past years but not this year, was to have a trivia contest. A few years ago one of the questions was "Who was the first woman rabbi?" If I remember correctly, Rabbi Goldberg was in attendance and had the correct answer: Regina Jonas, ordained December 25, 1935, in Germany. The other day I was reading in the Encyclopedia Judaica and I came upon an entry the sheds doubt on that answer. How many of you have ever heard of Asenath Barzani? The little bit I've been able to learn about her suggests that she was functioning as the head of a yeshiva about 350 years ago. That just blew me away. I spend my life surrounded by Jewish feminists. How could I not have heard of her?

Asenath Barzani lived in Mosul, in Kurdistan (northern Iraq). She was born about 1590. Her father, Shmuel Barzani, was one of the chief scholars of the Kurdish Jewish community. He established yeshivas and he taught what he knew to his daughter. This included Jewish texts and even Kabbalah. Her father didn't make her do domestic work, only learn Torah. She married one of her father's chief disciples, her cousin, Rabbi Jacob Mizrahi. She wrote that part of the marriage agreement was that she would continue to study, though sources differ on whether or not that was actually written in her ketubah. Her husband took over her father's yeshiva. He was a great scholar but was not very worldly. While he continued his studies, she ran his yeshiva. She continued as Rosh Yeshiva after his early death. She appears to have corresponded with scholars all around the region and to have been addressed by them as the Tanna'it, literally the female Tanna, a Talmudic scholar. She taught many subjects, she wrote Hebrew poetry, and there are even stories that she performed miracles. She lived in poverty all her life, but she accomplished so much. I need to learn more about her. At the last Interfaith Dialogue program on the discussion of roles of women in religion, Melissa Nunes-Harwitt discussed some of the ways that modern Orthodox Judaism is exploring the roles of women just as Reform and Conservative Judaism are doing. I think we could all learn something from Tanna'it Asenath Barzani.

Speaking of interfaith dialogue, our next joint program with the Turkish Cultural Center will be on Sunday, January 25th from 2-4 PM at the Turkish Cultural Center, 2692 Dewey Avenue. We will be talking about our social relationships with Christians. A similar program last year was very well received and the subject can be explored much further. I hope to see you there.

Leon Metlay



Shake the winter blahs. Come join us for services soon!

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JANUARY 2015

Friday	Jan 2	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 4:28 PM
Saturday	Jan 3	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Vayechi
Sunday	Jan 4	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Jan 9	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at TBK Room 103 Light candles at 4:35 PM
Saturday	Jan 10	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Jan 11	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Monday	Jan 12	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	Jan 16	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:43 PM
Saturday	Jan 17	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Va'eira
Sunday	Jan 18	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Jan 21	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Jan 23	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:52PM
Saturday	Jan 24	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Bo
Sunday	Jan 25	9:00 AM 2:00 PM	Service and Discussion Interfaith Event at the Turkish Cultural Center
Friday	Jan 30	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 5:01PM
Saturday	Jan 31	10:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at TBK Room 103 Torah: Beshalach

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

This month's Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, January 21st at 7:30 p.m. at BHBI. Come and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome!

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

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 6	Donald and Julie Swartz in honor of their son, Jeremy, being called to the Torah for the first time
December 13	The Congregation in honor of our friends from Temple Beth Am
December 20	Leon Metlay and Nina Kliensky in honor of their daughter, Hannah's 21 st birthday
December 27	Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her aunt, Barbara Bertman Paul Rosenfeld and Sylvia Rose in honor of the 97 th birthday of Sylvia's father, Ralph Rose

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

Donald and Julie Swartz

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!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aaron Schaffer on being elected the Editor-in-Chief of the *Campus Times*, the student newspaper at the University of Rochester.

CONCERTS

Paula Bobb would like to invite members of the congregation and their friends to attend 3 upcoming concerts that she will be performing in:

1. Thursday, February 5, 2015 at Hochstein at 7:00pm
Spotlight on Faculty: Celebration of the Piano!
Paula will be performing a Chopin solo as well as several collaborations.
2. Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 2:00pm.
Gossamer Edge (Paula; Rita George-Simmons, flutist; Allyn Van Dusen, soprano) at Asbury First United Methodist Church on East Avenue at 2:00pm.
On the program are Hilary Tann's "A Girl's Song to Her Mother", Debussy's "Clair de Lune" and "Syrinx", Jennifer Higdon's song cycle "Bentley Roses" on texts by James Whitcomb Riley, love songs of Ravel and Saint-Saens, and Jake Heggie's intense cycle, "The Deepest Desire: Four Meditations on Love" on texts of Sister Helen Prejean.
3. Thursday, May 21st, 2015: at Hochstein at 7:00pm.
Spotlight on Faculty - An all-PDQ Bach program! Including the Erotica Variations, (which Paula is organizing for the 3rd time) and other delectable musical treats!



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.

January 2-3	Tevet	January 9-10	Tevet	January 23-24	Shevat	January 30-31	Shevat
Sadye Abelman*	12	Estelle Hirsch*	19	Etta Levinson*	4	Jacob Swartz	12
Sol Lazarus*	12	Shie Schnidman*	19	Ida Silver*	4	Miriam Weinberger	12
Fannie Osband*	13	Anna Buff*	21	Sidney Appelbaum*	6	Abraham Newell*	13
Joseph Morris*	14	Benjamin Dvorkin*	21	Jacob Komenski*	6	Anna Sanow*	13
Celia Suskind*	14	Goldie Simon*	23	Gidda Strauss*	6	Stanley Clark*	16
Dora Rogovin*	15	Leah Keyfetz*	24	Morris Suskind*	7	Morris Gurian*	17
Nathan Goldberg	16	Esther Sanzel*	24	Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8		
Fannie Sablowsky*	17			Herman Strauss*	8		
Philip Sanzel*	17	January 16-17	Tevet- Shevat	Dvora Brodie*	9		
Joseph Schiff*	17			Samuel Goldman*	9		
Hannah Senzel*	17			Daniel Hirsch*	10		
Louis Bernstein*	18	Samuel Meilstein*	26				
Carl Kleinstein*	18	Ida Boyarsky*	27				
Rose Needler*	18	Philip Hershkowitz	27				
		Jack Glazer	28				
		Joe Lazarus*	28				
		Jean Spencer	1				
		Morris Weinstein*	2				

*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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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

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Save the Date!!

We will be having our next interfaith event with our friends from the Turkish community at the Turkish Cultural Center

at 2692 Dewey Avenue in Greece

on Sunday, January 25th from 2 to 4 p.m.

The title of the event is:

“How do people in our respective communities relate to the Christians within our social circles?”

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Finding Common Ground – Understanding the Conflict Between Israelis and Palestinians and Confronting Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism on Campus

The Jewish Community Federation is sponsoring this event for college students on Sunday, January 4th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Federation, 441 East Avenue. Students who are interested in attending should call 461-6890 or e-mail Rabbi Amy Sapowith at rabbisapowith@tsinai.org

JCC Annual Gala

The JCC's annual gala will be held on Saturday evening, January 10th beginning at 7 p.m. There will be hors d'Oeuvres, dinner, music, awards and a live auction and the event will be hosted by Solo Circus performer Michael DuBois. For more information, contact the JCC.

Michael DuBois' Solo Circus

SOLO CIRCUS is a fast-paced, variety show for all ages featuring amazing magic, juggling, circus/sideshow stunts and audience interaction, all wrapped up in a cozy blanket of comedy. Rochester native Michael DuBois' appearances on Jay Leno and David Letterman catapulted him to international recognition, and he has since performed his unique SOLO CIRCUS at over 500 colleges, cruise ships, theatres and resorts all over the world.

Special guest Viktoria Grimmy is a fifth-generation circus performer and aerialist who created and performed circus acts for the Tony-award winning Broadway production of PIPPIN and has performed with the Big Apple Circus, Ringling Brothers Circus, Britney Spears Circus Tour, and in the film *Burlesque*.

Solo Circus will be performed on Saturday, January 10th at 11 AM and 2 PM and on Sunday, January 11th at 4:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 for JCC members and \$16 for non-members. For tickets or more information, contact the JCC.

A Special RPO Program – ‘Kaddish - I Am Here’

To mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, the RPO will perform an inspiring vocal composition titled ‘Kaddish – I Am Here’ on Thursday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. at Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre. The libretto is drawn from interviews with Holocaust survivors and includes elements of folk songs and Klezmer music with vocal soloists. Tickets can be purchased by calling 454-2100 or on-line at www.RPO.org

OFFICE: The synagogue office is checked regularly for mail and messages. The synagogue phone is 244-2060. For urgent issues, call Leon Metlay at 271-2945 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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