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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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April President's Message

Friends,

It has been a long hard winter. I am so ready for spring.

“For, lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing is come, And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, And the vines in blossom give forth their fragrance.”

That quote is from Song of Songs (Shir haShirim) 2:11- 13. With a beautiful evocation of Spring like that, is it any wonder that the Song of Songs is traditionally read during Passover? Some people have the tradition of reading it at the Seder. Most traditional synagogues read it on the Sabbath in the middle of Passover. This year, when Passover both begins and ends on the Sabbath (with no Sabbath in the middle) we will read excerpts from it on the last day.

The Song of Songs is not a typical book of the Bible. It is a love poem. G-d is not mentioned. A man and a woman take turns describing their lovers, their yearnings, etc. The book is attributed to King Solomon, who is described in the text, with the implication that he is the male lover.

Why is this in the Bible? It almost wasn't. In the first two centuries of the Common Era, when the rabbis finalized the selection and order of the books of the Bible, the Song of Songs was almost excluded. What kept it in? Two things: the attribution to King Solomon and the interpretation of the whole book as an allegory. Viewed as symbols, the erotic love between a man and a woman becomes the deep connection between G-d and the people of Israel. As an example, verse 1:2 starts “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth..” In the Artscroll allegorical translation that passage is rendered “Communicate Your innermost wisdom to me in loving closeness”. (I think I prefer the literal.)

What better time to read this book than during Passover, which comes in the spring and celebrates G-d bringing us out of slavery and guiding us through the desert?

Have a Happy Passover.

Leon Metlay

Have a happy and healthy Passover!



BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – APRIL 2015

Friday	Apr 3		No Shabbat Evening Service – 1 st Passover Seder Light candles at 7:20 PM
Saturday	Apr 4	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning and 1 st Day of Passover Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Light candles after 8:22 PM
Sunday	Apr 5	9:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning and 2 nd Day of Passover Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David at BHBI
Thursday	Apr 9	7:00 PM	Joint Erev Passover 7 th Day Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 7:27 PM
Friday	Apr 10	9:30 AM 7:00 PM	Joint Passover 7 th day Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David at Beth Am at TBK Room 103 Joint Shabbat and Erev Passover 8 th Day Evening Service with Yizkor together with Temple Beth Am at TBK Room 103 Light candles at 7:28 PM
Saturday	Apr 11	9:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning and Passover 8 th Day Service with Yizkor together with Temple Beth Am at BHBI
Sunday	Apr 12	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Apr 13	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	Apr 15	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Apr 17	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 7:36PM
Saturday	Apr 18	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shemini
Sunday	Apr 19	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Apr 24	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 7:44 PM
Saturday	Apr 25	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Tazria-Metzorah
Sunday	Apr 26	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

This month's Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m. at BHBI. Come and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome!

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!

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

March 7 The Congregation
 March 14 Katharine Metlay in memory of her sister, Julie Feuerberg
 Tamara Strubel in memory of her mother, Lea Kron
 March 21 Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky
 March 28 Tamara Strubel in memory of her father, Michael Kron

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Edith Berkowitz <i>Gloria Berkowitz</i> In memory of Aaron Baker <i>Sue Baker</i> In memory of Harry Aranow <i>Eileen Kovel</i>	In memory of Lil, Max and Charles Levy <i>Rose and Paul Israel</i> In memory of Gertrude Swartz <i>Sue Baker</i> In memory of Benjamin Braz <i>Marcia Geraci</i>
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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.

April 3-4	Nisan	April 10-11	Nisan	April 17-18	Nisan -Iyar	April 24-25	Iyar
Leo Buchbinder*	15	Yetta Levine*	22	Hyman Rothschild*	29	Hyman Goldberg*	6
Sol Levin*	15	Evelyn Maimon	23	Karen Schulman	30	Morton Lewis	6
Rose Jossem*	16	Simon Finkelman	24	Louis Goldberg*	1	Harry Gordon*	7
Judith Potter*	16	Blanche Levitz	25	Louis Goldman*	3	Abraham Mosheh Malina*	7
Louis Cohen*	18	Louis Priceman*	25	Beverly Honickman	4	Minnie Rothbard	9
Harry H. Levinson	18	Dorothy Riwkin*	25			Harry Cominsky*	11
David Morris*	20	Samuel B. Spiller*	25			Tessie Yablin*	11
Jacob Weinrib*	20	Arthur Weinberger	26	*Denotes name		Dr. Murray Cowan*	12
Beatrice Goldstein*	21	Alexander Greenbaum*	27	memorialized on			
Meshulam Langman	21	Esther Gurian*	27	BHBI Memorial			
Benjamin Ritter	21	Ethel L. Goldstein*	28	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

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Above and Beyond – The Untold True Story

To be shown at the JCC's Hart Theatre on Sunday, April 12th at 7 pm in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). \$8 for JCC Members/\$11 for Non Members. Contact the JCC to purchase tickets.

Would you risk everything - your future, your citizenship, even your life - to help a brother in need?

In 1948, just three years after the liberation of Nazi death camps, a group of Jewish American pilots answered a call for help. In secret and at great personal risk, they smuggled planes out of the U.S., trained behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia and flew for Israel in its War of Independence. As members of Machal – “volunteers from abroad” – this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war; they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride.

Above and Beyond is their story.

Through the Eyes of Liberators: History Comes to Life

This year's Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) commemoration will take place at the JCC on Wednesday, April 15th at 7 pm. Matthew A. Rozell will be keynote speaker, providing fascinating insights in his many years connecting Holocaust survivors with their liberators - soldiers of WWII. Rozell, a teacher of history at Hudson Falls (NY) High School has provided students with life-changing experiences that have underscored his driving missions — to promote history and Holocaust education as something vital and alive and to foster a curiosity and attention to the suffering of others that leads to passionate involvement. Rozell is recognized as a leader in World War II and Holocaust history. He and his students have personally interviewed more than 200 WWII veterans and have published many stories that would have otherwise been lost. He has been instrumental in reuniting over 275 Holocaust survivors with several American soldiers who liberated them from a train in Nazi Germany on April 13, 1945 and nursed them back to health. Rozell has organized or helped facilitate powerful reunions, witnessed by thousands of students. In 2008, Rozell was awarded a Museum Teacher Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for his work in Holocaust education; he has also been the subject of a documentary, “Honoring Liberation,” produced by the museum. His work has also been modeled in educational programs across the nation. In 2009, Rozell and his students were named ABC World News “Persons of the Week” by Diane Sawyer.

Yom Hashoah Concert at the Eastman School of Music

Faculty performers from the Eastman School of Music will play in a special concert to commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) on Sunday evening, April 12th at 7:30 pm in Kilbourn Hall. Tickets are \$10 (entrance is free for those with a University of Rochester ID). For information, contact Bonnie Abrams at 461-0490 ext. 8648 or contact her by e-mail at babrams@jewishrochester.org

Celebrate Israel Independence Day

This year's Yom Ha'atzmaout celebration will be held at Temple B'rith Kodesh on Wednesday evening, April 22nd beginning at 7 pm and will feature Cantor Patti Linsky. There will be lots of modern Jewish music as well as old favorites. The event is free and open to the public. The PJ Library will have a special program for families with children ages 3-8 beginning at 6:30 pm in room 200 at TBK. For information, call the Jewish Federation at 461-0490.



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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