

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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January President's Message

Friends,

I don't know about you, but, regarding the weather, I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop. After a decent early snow it's been cool and damp, but not really cold. It's supposed to be a little colder in the last week of December, but there has to be more to winter than this.

I recently had an interesting experience. In November, our shul received an email from a pair of teachers from Victor High School. They are teaching Global Studies to a group of ninth graders and were looking to tour a synagogue and learn something about Judaism. I answered them and we set a date early in December. There were almost 30 students in the group and they spent from 9:45 until noon in our building. The tour didn't take long, it's a small building, but my brief presentation and the question and answer session took up most of the time. Towards the end, I fed them lunch. After all, feeding people is an important part of Jewish culture.

If I asked each of you what you think are most important aspects of Judaism to communicate to a group of students, I'm sure that each of you would mention some of the same things but there would be a lot of variation. In my presentation I tried to make a limited number of points. I mentioned the importance of the idea of one G-d. I mentioned that the first destruction of the Temple led to the invention of congregational worship at a time when every other religion emphasized priests performing sacrifices in temples. I asked them how many commandments there are, and of course they said "10". I told them of the existence of the 613 mitzvot and the relative emphasis in Judaism of performing mitzvot over what we believe, i.e. of acts over faith. I talked about the Torahs, both the written and the oral laws. I gave them a close up look at a Megillah of Esther. I even showed them a shofar and managed to get a decent tekiah out of it. I had a pushke on the lectern to remind me to talk about tzedakah, but I never got to it. The children had lots of questions and I spent most of the time answering them. Lunch was an opportunity to talk about dietary laws. I'm interested in hearing what you would emphasize if you were doing the presentation. Drop me a line and let me know.

The teachers told me the children had a good time. I know I did. If we were contacted by another school, I wouldn't mind doing something like that again. It's fun to help other people understand our religion and our culture.

Speaking of understanding other people's culture, our next Jewish-Muslim dialogue session will be later this month. The details haven't been finalized yet as I am writing this but there should be details elsewhere in this bulletin. It should be a fun program. Please join us and bring your friends.

Try to stay warm and dry and have a good 2016.

Leon Metlay

Tu b'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, is on Monday, January 25th this year.

So, on that day, find your favorite tree, and give it a big hug!



BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JANUARY 2015

Friday	Jan 1	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:27 PM
Saturday	Jan 2	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Jan 3	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Jan 8	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Light candles at 4:34 PM
Saturday	Jan 9	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Va'eira
Sunday	Jan 10	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Jan 11	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	Jan 15	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:41 PM
Saturday	Jan 16	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Bo
Sunday	Jan 17	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Jan 20	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Jan 22	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 4:50 PM
Saturday	Jan 23	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Beshalach
Sunday	Jan 24	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
		2:00 PM	Special United By Faith Interfaith Event: Viewing of the Movie 'Arranged' at BHBI
Friday	Jan 29	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 4:59 PM
Saturday	Jan 30	10:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Torah: Yitro
Sunday	Jan 31	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

Tu b'Shevat

Tu b'Shevat, the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, falling on January 25th this year, is known as the New Year of the Trees. It marks the time when the earliest-blooming trees begin to bud in the Land of Israel. It is customary to eat fruit and grains on Tu b'Shevat, especially those that are considered among the seven species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates). Some people make it a point to eat carobs on Tu b'Shevat while others eat jam or preserves made from etrogs that have been left over from Sukkot.

As with everything else, in ancient days, the House of Hillel and the House of Shamai, disagreed about when the New Year of the Trees should be commemorated. The House of Shamai thought that it should fall on the first day of Shevat while the House of Hillel declared that the 15th day of the month of Shevat should be the New Year of the Trees. As always, Hillel won the argument. Tu b'Shevat actually had a real purpose. The age of trees was determined by how many New Years (i.e., Tu b'Shevats) had passed since the tree was planted. Traditionally, the fruit of a tree could not be eaten for 3 years because until then the fruit belonged to G-d, while people could only eat it from the 4th year on. Thus, Tu b'Shevat helped mark these milestones.

DONATIONS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Nathan Goldberg
Phil and Annette Garver

In memory of Benjamin and Celia Lapidés
Suzanne Jacobs

In memory of Morris and Esther Gurian
Suzanne Jacobs

In memory of her mother, Barbara Bertman
Renee Bertman

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

- December 5 Sylvia Rose and Paul Rosenfeld in memory of Sylvia's mother, Ruth Rose
- December 12 Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her aunt, Barbara Bertman
- December 19 The Congregation
- December 26 Nina Klionsky and Leon Metlay in honor of their daughter, Hannah's birthday

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SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

This month's Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m. at BHBI. Come and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome! If you haven't attended before, give it a try – you will definitely enjoy the lively discussion.

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.

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 1-2	Tevet	January 8-9	Tevet-Shevat	January 15-16	Shevat	January 22-23	Shevat
Anna Buff*	21	Jack Glazer	28	Sidney Appelbaum*	6	Abraham Newell*	13
Benjamin Dvorkin*	21	Joe Lazarus*	28	Jacob Komenski*	6	Anna Sanow*	13
Goldie Simon*	23	Jean Spencer	1	Gidda Strauss*	6	Stanley Clark*	16
Leah Keyfetz*	24	Morris Weinstein*	2	Morris Suskind*	7	Morris Gurian*	17
Esther Sanzel*	24	Etta Levinson*	4	Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8	Gitla Perkal*	18
Samuel Meilstein*	26	Ida Silver*	4	Herman Strauss*	8	Samuel Spencer	18
Ida Boyarsky	27			Dvora Brodie*	9		
Philip Hershkowitz	27			Samuel Goldman*	9	January 30-31	Shevat
				Daniel Hirsch*	10		
				Jacob Swartz	12	Besse Gold	20
				Miriam Weinberger	12	Benjamin Lapidés*	20
		Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque				Simon Pogal	21
						Jacob Rubenstein*	21
						E. Sarah Maltinsky*	23
						Bert Falk*	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.

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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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

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!

CEMETERY PLOTS

Did you know that BHBI has designated sections at Stone Road, Britten Road and Mt. Hope Cemeteries and that we sell cemetery plots? If you would like more information, contact Steve Teitel.

**Join Us for a Special 'United by Faith' Interfaith Event
in Conjunction with Our Friends from Temples Beth Am and Beth David,
the Turkish Cultural Center and the Peace Islands Institute**

A Viewing of the Acclaimed Movie 'Arranged'

Sunday, January 24th at 2:00 pm at BHBI

Free and Open to the Public

Bring your friends!!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Temple Sinai is sponsoring a 10-week course in conjunction with the Hartman Institute titled 'Tribes of Israel: A Shared Homeland for a Divided People' which will run every 2 weeks on Monday evenings for 10 weeks beginning on January 11th. Participants will confront the challenge of creating a Jewish and democratic public space in the modern State of Israel with this collection of 10 video lectures paired with interviews of experts representing the various "tribes" highlighted in the series.

Prior Registration required: www.tsinai.org

Cost: \$45 + \$20.00 for accompanying book

For more information, contact Susan Roberts-Grew at 381-6890 or at srobertsgrew@tsinai.org

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent

A Special Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Film Screening

Sunday, January 17th at 5 pm at the JCC Hart Theatre, Free

As a young rabbi in 1930s Berlin, Joachim Prinz spoke out against the Nazi regime. Prinz then sought refuge in the United States. While touring his new nation, he was shocked to encounter American racism, discrimination, and inequality, and again felt compelled to speak out.

I Shall Not Be Silent celebrates Joachim Prinz's undying commitment to Jewish values in practice, and the partnership he and other Jewish leaders developed with Civil Rights Movement leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the fight for equality and justice for all.

Film run time 50 min. More information at <http://www.prinzdocumentary.org/>

The Maccabeats: The Magic Returns! Join a Special Free Encore Performance of this Premier A Cappella Group

Wednesday, January 23rd at 8 pm at Temple B'rith Kodesh

Bring your family and friends and join in a rousing good time!



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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