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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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July President's Message

Friends,

Last year at this time we were preparing for a joint program with the Turkish Cultural Center involving fasting on the 17th of Tammuz which overlapped with one of the days of Ramadan. Every year the Islamic calendar shifts 11 days earlier than the previous year, because they do not correct for the difference between lunar and solar years. In addition, this year is a leap year in the Jewish calendar, so dates are moved later. Between those circumstances, the 17th of Tammuz does not fall within Ramadan this year. We are now within the month of Ramadan and we thank the Turkish Cultural Center for their gracious invitation to share an Iftar dinner with them again this year. We will be having the next Jewish-Muslim dialogue program on Sunday, July 31, at 2 PM, at our synagogue. It will be a discussion of the Attributes of G-d. This is the beginning of the fourth year of our ongoing dialogue series. The grant funding the series was meant to last a year, but through careful stewardship of the funds, Steve Teitel has stretched it to four years and counting. It's our own version of the Chanukah miracle! The hymn "Yigdal" is a list of Maimonides' 13 articles of faith. Maybe we should plan to sing it on the 31st?

The Fast of the 17th of Tammuz is coming up on July 24. The 17th is actually the previous day, but the fast is postponed a day because the July 23rd is Shabbat, and you can't fast on Shabbat (except on Yom Kippur). The 17th of Tammuz is 40 days after Shavuot. Shavuot is the time of the giving of the covenant at Sinai. Afterwards, Moses went up on the mountain to learn the laws. He came down the mountain 40 days later, carrying the stone tablets, to find the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. In his rage he shattered the tablets- that was on the 17th of Tammuz. In 586 BCE, the Babylonians made a breach in the wall of Jerusalem on the 9th of Tammuz and the daily sacrifices ceased on the 17th. The Temple was destroyed three weeks later on the 9th of Av. In the year 70 CE the Romans made their first breach in the walls of Jerusalem on the 17th of Tammuz, with the Temple being destroyed 3 weeks later on the 9th of Av. In second Temple times the 9th of Tammuz was observed as a fast day, but later the fast was moved to the 17th. Throughout history other Bad Things have happened to the Jewish people during the 3 weeks between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av. This is considered a time to mourn the loss of the Temple and the other events that befell us. This time period is called "Between the Straits", paraphrasing a verse from Eicha (Lamentations).

Many people are aware that this is a time of mourning, with restrictions on our activities, but what exactly are we forbidden to do during the 3 weeks? While the observance of the 3 weeks with special haftorahs, the "haftorahs of rebuke", dates from the 5th century, the restrictions are an Ashkenazi custom which is first mentioned in the 14th century, in the commentaries of Rabbi Moses Isserles. The Sephardim do not observe the same customs. From the start of the period until the end of Tammuz, Askenazim do not shave, cut their hair, or listen to music. Celebrations are avoided. No weddings are allowed. We don't say the blessing "she-hechyanu", which means we don't buy new clothing either. Since this is considered a time of danger, many people avoid going to dangerous places, taking airplane trips, or getting involved with court cases during this period. From the first of Av to the 9th, in addition to those restrictions, many people avoid eating meat, don't wear freshly laundered cloths, and don't take warm baths. It was interesting to read about these customs, because I, and I'm sure many of you, have heard of much more restrictive practices during the 3 weeks. Of course, since I'm bald and bearded, the restrictions on haircuts and shaving don't have a lot of impact on me, but it will be hard to avoid music.

As is our custom, the annual picnic will be coming up in August, after the 3 weeks are over, specifically on Sunday, August 21st. Save the date and have a great summer.

Leon Metlay

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JULY 2016

Friday	July 1	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:35 PM
Saturday	July 2	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Shelach Blessing of the New Month
Sunday	July 3	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	July 8	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Light candles at 8:33 PM
Saturday	July 9	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Korach
Sunday	July 10	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	July 11	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	July 15	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:29 PM
Saturday	July 16	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Chukat
Sunday	July 17	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	July 20	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	July 22	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:23 PM
Saturday	July 23	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Balak
Sunday	July 24	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	July 29	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 8:16 PM
Saturday	July 30	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Torah: Pinchas
Sunday	July 31	9:00 AM 2:00 PM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Series Discussion About ‘The Attributes of G-d’

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Series

Our ongoing Jewish-Muslim dialogue series continues on Sunday, July 31st at 2 pm at BHBI. We will be discussing our understanding of the ‘Attributes of G-d’. Come join us and our friends from the Turkish community for this event.



DONATIONS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Maurice Baker
Sue Ann Baker

In memory of Bessie Baker
Sue Ann Baker

In memory of Robert Baker
Sue Ann Baker

In memory of Annette Garver
Ira Cohen

In honor of Chelsea Cohen earning her master's degree
Ira Cohen

In memory of Theresa Mayer Block
Cathy Block

In memory of David Gordon
Phil Garver

In memory of Zus Kaminnik
Nelly Vishnagorsky

In memory of Annette Garver
Stan and Elaine Schaffer

In memory of Annette Garver
Steve and Ruth Teitel

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS
FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

June 4	The Congregation
June 11	Hermann and Esther Vogelstein in memory of their father, Max Vogelstein
June 18	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of the Metlay-Klionsky June Birthdays
June 25	The Congregation

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!

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

This month's Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, July 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.

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.

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HAVE A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!



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.

July 1-2	Sivan-Tammuz	July 15-16	Tammuz	July 22-23	Tammuz	July 29-30	Tammuz - Av
Stella Getz*	27	Eva Krinsky*	10	Sam Hector*	20	Nelli Ahuva Metlay*	24
Mary Goldman*	27	Phillip Morrow*	11	Harry Sarachan*	20	Ira Edward Potter*	24
Betty Newell*	27	Rochli Rothschild*	11	Rose Schiff*	20	Thelma Ring Smith*	25
Eva Wasserman*	27	Rachel Strauss*	14	Louis Edelson*	21	Irwin Bertman*	26
Isadore Goldman*	29	Rachel Morris*	14	Bernard		Oscar Hart	27
Hyb Jossem*	30	Sarah Singer*	15	Sallerson*	21	Mark Rose	27
Samuel Hoffman*	2	Gad Strubel	15	Max Goodman*	23	Abraham Schriba*	27
Sarah Sarachan*	2	Yetta Goldman*	16	David Gordon*	23	Doriene Baker	28
		Sheila Kleinstein	16	*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Hyman Tanenbaum*	28
July 8-9	Tammuz	Sarah Markin*	16		Celia Silverman*		29
Eva Goodman*	3				Sidney Gold		1
Rose Joffe*	3				Louis Schiff*		1
Jennie Epstein*	4				Benjamin Bobb		2
David Glasser*	4				Joseph Greenbaum*		2
Alan Fishman	5						
Morris Krinsky*	7						
Sarah Schnidman*	9						
Rabbi Aaron							
Solomon*	9						

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

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

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.

Editor's Choice

Stan Schaffer

It's a rare occasion that, as the editor of the BHBI Bulletin, there is enough room in an issue that I can publish a long article. I keep interesting articles that I come across just for such rare opportunities. Reprinted below is an article that I think will be of interest to many of you and which appeared last fall in my high school's alumni newspaper that gets sent out to 34,000 alumni twice a year. To provide some background, when I attended Lowell High School in San Francisco in the late '60s and early '70s, the student body of the city's 'academic high school' was about 35% Jewish, about 40% Asian (mostly Chinese) and about 25% everybody else. At that time, the school expanded its foreign language offerings to include a number of languages that were not commonly taught in public school then, including Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Swahili and Hebrew. The demographics of the student body have changed, with a large majority of the students now being Asian. Foreign language offerings have changed a bit too. The school still offers 8 foreign languages including Spanish, Chinese, French, Japanese, Italian, Korean, Latin and Hebrew and students are encouraged to explore new languages. The article below was written by one of the students who is studying Hebrew.

My name is Claudia Guardado, and I am a junior at Lowell. I was born in El Salvador and moved to the US at the age of 7. I live with my three siblings and my mom. As the oldest of four, I am in charge of helping my mom take care of my siblings. I clean the house, cook on the weekends, and babysit my siblings. I also make sure that two of my siblings are doing well in school by helping them with their homework and projects.

I decided to take Hebrew because it is an old and unique language. I am already fluent in Spanish, so I thought it would be fun to try out a new language that is uncommon to speak. My mom encouraged me to try it out because it would be fun to travel to Israel one day and see all the historical, biblical places. Despite many people telling me that I shouldn't take Hebrew, I did it and do not regret it at all. The class has exposed me to the Jewish culture, which is similar to the Latino culture, in my opinion. As a Christian Baptist, this language has helped me learn more about my religion as well.

The class is very small, but it is nice because I feel that I am learning more than if it was a bigger class. There is a lot of diversity which helps us bond together. Despite coming in to this class with no background in Hebrew, I have felt that I have learned so much in such a small time. It was difficult at first, but I eventually got used to it and learned quickly. I can now read, write, and speak Hebrew. I love feeling accepted by the other people in class and being able to share things from my culture and learning things from their culture. Compared to my other classes, I feel that Hebrew is easier and more interesting because we have many discussions and we respect each other's opinion. This class makes me feel like I am not being judged at all.

After high school, I hope I can go to the University of Chicago and major in Computer Science and maybe even work for big tech companies like Google or Microsoft. I also hope to continue learning Hebrew throughout college, so one day I can be able to teach others and also travel to Israel.

I want to encourage others to take Hebrew and learn something new. It does not matter where you are from or what you believe in, but what matters is the interest of learning something unique and fun.

Claudia Guardado, Class of 2017

Do you have interesting content for a future article in the BHBI Bulletin? If you do, please send it to me so that, when the opportunity arises, I can put it in the Bulletin. I'd also love to get other content from you including (clean) jokes, information about interesting vacation travels, or even some biographic information about you that you wouldn't mind sharing with others. Don't be shy!

The World's Diverse Jewish Communities – The Jews of Azerbaijan

As many of you know, my son Aaron is spending the summer in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he is studying Turkish. I had been aware that some of my wife, Elaine's ancestors had been in Baku before emigrating to the U.S. a century ago, so I wanted to learn more about the Jewish community there. What I discovered was very interesting. Azerbaijan is a multiethnic nation that was part of the Soviet Union before becoming independent. It had been ruled off and on by Russia for 250 years. However, located east of Turkey and Armenia, south of Russia and Georgia and north of Iran means that the country is a hodgepodge of different ethnicities as well as different groups of Jews. Some of the most interesting are the Mountain Jews of Azerbaijan who are the descendants of Russian Orthodox Christians who sought to learn more about the origins of their religion and in doing so adopted Jewish customs and eventually converted to Judaism about 250 years ago. They were sent from the Moscow area to Azerbaijan in the late 1700s by Catherine the Great for their own protection, and they have continued to live in their own mountain villages there ever since. In addition, Azerbaijan also has Ashkenazi Russian Jews as well as Jews of Persian origin.

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

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