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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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February President's Message

Friends:

Napoleon Bonaparte is supposed to have said “History is written by the winners”. (Some say he didn't, but someone certainly said it.) Donald Trump is all about winning, but this article isn't about Trump. This article is about a “loser” who wrote history.

I have just started reading *The Antiquities of the Jews*, by Flavius Josephus. Known most commonly as Josephus, he was a Jewish historian who lived at the time of the Jewish war against Rome. He wrote an account of the destruction of Jerusalem and he wrote the first popular history of Judaism. Josephus was not a shrinking violet. In fact, his biography makes him sound like a bit of a braggart. He was born Yosef ben Mattityahu haCohen in Jerusalem in about 37 CE. He claimed descent from Yonathan the brother of Judah Maccabee. He says he was consulted as an expert on ritual as a teenager and that he spent three years living with an ascetic hermit in the desert. Despite being a priest, he identified himself as a Pharisee. The priests tended to support the Sadducees who were focused on the Temple ritual, rather than the Pharisees who were more focused on issues of righteousness. Years ago, I read in a history of religion (I wish I could remember which one), that there are only two men in all of literature who are recorded as identifying themselves as Pharisees: Josephus and Saul of Tarsus (known to Christians as St. Paul).

In 64 CE, Josephus went to Rome to negotiate for the release of some priests held hostage by Emperor Nero. With the favor of Nero's wife, his mission was a success. He returned to Judaea in 66 CE, just in time for the outbreak of war against Rome. He was made the Jewish military commander of the Galilee, despite being in favor of compromise with Rome (a common attitude among the Pharisees). He fought General Vespasian, who besieged and destroyed Yodefat (Jotapata in Greek). Josephus somehow survived the battle and the suicide pact of the remnant of the garrison. When brought in chains before Vespasian, he predicted that Vespasian would be Emperor. Two years later in 69 CE, Vespasian became Emperor, freed Josephus, and adopted him into the Flavian family, hence the name Flavius Josephus.

Josephus was present at the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Titus (Vespasian's son), trying unsuccessfully to negotiate a settlement. He was hated by the Jews as a traitor, although Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakai, who surrendered to Titus and predicted that Titus would become Emperor (also correctly), was considered a hero. Josephus spent his last years mostly in Rome, writing. His two greatest works were the *History of the Jewish War*, in 7 books published in 75-79 CE and the *Antiquities of the Jews*, in 20 books published about 93 CE. In the *War* he extolled Roman military power, and apparently tried to prevent Jews in the diaspora from rebelling against Rome. His is one of the few non-Roman narratives of Roman military methods. He accurately portrayed what he knew about. His report of Masada was considered a fiction until Masada was discovered in modern times. In the *Antiquities*, he presented all of history from Adam to the recent war, with an emphasis on the rationalism of Jewish law and practices. In the process he preserved knowledge of Jewish history in second Temple times that would otherwise have been lost.

I don't think you could call Josephus a “winner”. He wasn't exactly a “loser” either. I think he was a survivor, and I think history is written by the survivors.

Finally, we congratulate our own Dave Rogachefsky for receiving the Tikkun Olam Award from the JCC for his years of community service. Well done, Dave!

Stay warm,

Leon Metlay

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2016

Saturday	Feb 4	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Bo
Sunday	Feb 5	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Feb 10	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103)
Saturday	Feb 11	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: B'shalach
Sunday	Feb 12	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Feb 13	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	Feb 15	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	Feb 18	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Yitro
Sunday	Feb 19	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Saturday	Feb 25	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Mishpatim Blessing of the New Month
Sunday	Feb 26	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Friday, Feb. 3 – 5:07 PM
 Friday, Feb. 10 – 5:16 PM
 Friday, Feb. 17 – 5:26 PM
 Friday, Feb. 24 – 5:35 PM

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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!

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

Mark Bobb

In memory of Laura Levinson
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Annette Garver
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Suzan Litten
Sue Baker

In honor of Dave Rogachefsky receiving the JCC's Tikkun Olam Award

Ira Cohen

Sue Baker

Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

Stan and Elaine Schaffer

Steve and Ruth Teitel

Jeff Nidetz, Leslie Toker and Mark Toker

In memory of Janet Grable
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In Memory of Esther Walder Klionsky
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Rona Luxemburg
Sue Baker

On March 3rd, tens of thousands of Jews across America will come together to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate and celebrate at the 21st Annual ...

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA



On Friday night, March 3rd, 2017 hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews -- Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families -- all ages.

Invite your friends—all are welcome!

Shabbat Across America Dinner

March 3, 2017 • Dinner: 6:15 pm • Services : 7:30 pm

Cost: Adults \$10• Children (under Bar/Bat Mitzvah) \$6•

Send RSVP, with number of adults and children, and Payment in advance to:

Temple Beth Am
2131 Elmwood Ave., Room 103
Rochester, NY 14618

Must be in Temple Beth Am Office by February 27th



Please detach and mail in with check to Temple Beth Am, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618 to reach the office by February 29th

Name(s): _____ email: _____

Address: _____ City, St., Zip _____ Phone: _____

No. of Adults @ \$10 ____ No. of Children @ \$6 ____ Total Amount for Dinner \$ ____

Dietary restrictions: _____ (a committee member will contact you to discuss)

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 7	The Congregation
January 14	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky
January 21	Ruth and Steve Teitel in memory of Ruth's father, Jack Glazer
January 28	Phil Garver in memory of his wife, Annette

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, January 18th 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

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ROCHESTER VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY PACKING

Help prepare packages of love for kindergarteners at School #29 on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 5:30-7:00 pm at Temple Sinai. RSVP to Susan Gagnon at sgagnon@jewishrochester.org

RAISING OUR VOICES: SYRIA AND BEYOND: A JEWISH RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Today we are in the midst of the largest global refugee crisis on record. Join Riva Silverman, Vice President for External Affairs at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, at Temple Sinai on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 pm. to learn more about the crisis and how Jewish values compel us to respond, and hear from local refugee service agencies on how you can get involved.

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Jeremy Schnittman, astrophysicist at NASA, will be the Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Beth Shalom on February 3rd & 4th. Friday evening services start at 5:10 p.m., Saturday morning services at 8:45 a.m., and the lecture will be presented on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m.

ISRAEL 2017: THE SERIES

Jacob Baime – Israel on Campus: Now for the Good News

The Executive Director of the Israel on Campus Coalition will discuss BDS and other anti-Israel activities taking place on college campuses and will describe the growing campus pro-Israel movement on Wednesday, February 8th at 7 pm at the JCC's Hart Theatre.

SUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 12th has been selected for the Jewish Federation's Super Sunday fundraiser. The Federation is looking for volunteers to help on February 12th. If you would like to volunteer your time at the Super Sunday event, contact the Federation at 461-0490. Even if you don't volunteer, please be generous when the Federation calls.

A CAPELLA SHABBAT WITH THE Y-STUDS

The Y-Studs A Capella Group will lead Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Shalom on Friday evening, February 18th (beginning at 5:30 pm.) and Saturday morning, February 19th (beginning at 8:45 a.m.). The community is invited.

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.

February 3-4	Shevat	February 10-11	Shevat	February 17-18	Shevat	February 24-25	Shevat-Adar
Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8	Stanley Clark*	16	E. Sarah Maltinsky*	23	Lottie Fink*	29
Herman Strauss*	8	Morris Gurian*	17	Bert Falk*	25	Rose Ring*	29
Dvora Brodie*	9	Gitla Perkal*	18	Mariom Bernstein*	27	Boris Schvarts	30
Samuel Goldman*	9	Samuel Spencer	18	Ada Goldstein*	27	Sam Finkelstein*	1
Daniel Hirsch*	10	Besse Gold	20	Samuel Kayfetz*	27	Mary Weinrib*	1
Jacob Swartz	12	Benjamin Lapidés*	20			Werner Schaffer	2
Miriam Weinberger	12	Simon Pogal*	21			Philip Schiff*	3
Abraham Newell*	13	Jacob Rubinstein*	21			Betty Glaser	4
Anna Sanow*	13					Anna Ruderman*	4
				Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Hyman Sablowsky	4
						Emma Sarachan*	4
						Celia Lapidés*	5

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

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.

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.

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

Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel
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