

BHBIRochester.org  
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May 2017

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

# BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

*President: Leon Metlay*  
*Treasurer: Ira Cohen*

*First Vice-President: Paula Bobb*  
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*Second Vice-President: Stan Schaffer*  
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## **May President's Message**

Friends:

We had a wonderful series of services during Passover, in conjunction with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David. There was a good-sized crowd at every service and the Torah readings and service leading were distributed between the congregations. Those who attended had a good time. At the end of May we will be celebrating Shavuot, the giving of the Torah. We will again be sharing services. At the time of this writing, the schedule of services is not yet set.

We are now in the time between Passover and Shavuot, the period known as the Omer. This is a time period with its own set of laws and customs, which are not well known and of which the origins are not well known. The Torah says we should count seven complete weeks between Passover and Shavuot. There was a dispute about whether to start counting on the second day of Passover when the first omer (a measure) of the new barley was brought to the Temple, or to start counting on the Sabbath during Passover. The Rabbis decided to start on the second day, which is our custom now, though the Karaite sect starts counting on the Sabbath, so that their Shavuot is often later than ours. The period of the Omer is a time of modified mourning - no weddings, no haircuts, no music or dancing. Why do we mourn? The explanation in the Talmud is that the great Rabbi Akiva had 12,000 pairs of students who died in a plague during the Omer period. The reason for the plague is that they didn't respect each other. Some scholars say that this was a code in the Talmud for saying that the students were killed by the Romans during the Bar Kochba rebellion of 132-135 CE. We know that Rabbi Akiva was killed at that time (we read about his death in the Yom Kippur musaf service). Another reason that I've seen is that during and after the Crusades there were anti-Jewish pogroms during the Omer period.

The mourning ceases on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer, Lag B'Omer (May 14<sup>th</sup> this year). The Talmud says that the plague among Akiva's students stopped on the 34<sup>th</sup> day. So why on the 33<sup>rd</sup>? That day is the *yahrzeit* of the great Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who lived in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE and is credited with writing the Zohar, the greatest of the Kabbalistic mystical books. He told his students to celebrate the day of his death, and to this day, thousands of Jews visit his grave in northern Israel on this date. It is customary to build bonfires and to play with bows and arrows. Why bows and arrows? Perhaps that is a connection to the Bar Kochba rebellion. It certainly doesn't seem to relate to either Rabbi Akiva or Shimon bar Yochai.

Another custom during the Omer is to study the Kabbalah, especially about how we should all try to treat each other better. That clearly connects both to the story about Akiva's students and to Shimon bar Yochai. So as we continue into the month of May we should all resolve to treat each other better.

One thing we can do for each other is to attend the Congregation's annual meeting on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. We need to have a quorum in order to conduct our business, elect our Board and Officers, and make decisions for the coming year. I hope to see you there.

B'shalom,

*Leon Metlay*

**Remember to attend the BHBI Annual Meeting, Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm!**

## BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2016

Saturday	May 6	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service    Torah: Acharei-Kedoshim
Sunday	May 7	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
		3:00 PM	BHBI Annual Membership Meeting
Monday	May 8	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	May 12	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (TBK Room 103)
Saturday	May 13	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Emor
Sunday	May 14	9:00 AM	Service and Discussion
Wednesday	May 17	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	May 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service    Torah: Behar-Bechukotai Blessing of the New Month
Sunday	May 21	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Saturday	May 27	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service    Torah: Bamidbar
Sunday	May 28	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Tuesday	May 30	6:30 PM	Joint BHBI-TBA-TBD Shavuot Dinner at BHBI
		8:00 PM	Joint Erev Shavuot 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Service at BHBI
		8:45 PM	Shavuot Study Session
Wednesday	May 31	9:30 PM	Joint BHBI-TBA-TBD Shavuot 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Service at Temple Beth Am (TBK Room 103)
		7:00 PM	Joint BHBI-TBA-TBD Erev Shavuot 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Service with Yizkor at TBA
Thursday	June 1	9:00 AM	Joint BHBI-TBA-TBD Shavuot 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Service with Yizkor at Temple Beth David (TBK Room 200)

### SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Friday, May 5 – 7:58 PM  
 Friday, May 12 – 8:05 PM  
 Friday, May 19 – 8:13 PM  
 Friday, May 26 – 8:20 PM  
 Tuesday, May 30 – 8:23 PM  
 Wednesday, May 31 – After 9:34 PM

### MAKE YOUR PURCHASES AT AMAZON.COM AND SUPPORT BHBI AT THE SAME TIME!

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](http://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!

### CHAG SAMAYACH. HAVE A HAPPY SHAVUOT!



**DONATIONS**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Moses Berkowitz  
*Gloria Berkowitz*

In memory of Charles Levy  
*Rose Israel*

In memory of Rose Dworkis Lewis  
*Judith Mercer*

In memory of Minnette Taylor  
*Lyn and Norm Adams*

In memory of Edith Berkowitz  
*Gloria Berkowitz*

In memory of Meshullam Langerman  
*Ayala Emmett*

In memory of Morton Lewis  
*Judith Mercer*

In memory of Benjamin Ritter  
*Elaine and Stan Schaffer*

In honor of the marriage of Emily Fishman's granddaughter, Avigail Fishman, to Ariyeh Eckhaus  
*Nina Chazanoff*

**THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS**  
**FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

April 1	The Congregation
April 8	The Congregation
April 15	The Congregation
April 22	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](http://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, May 17th 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](http://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.

**EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT (ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY) CELEBRATION**

The event will be held at the JCC on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 7:30 PM. See page 4 for more information.

**ISRAEL 2017: THE SERIES – INSIDE THE SIX-DAY WAR: MYTHS AND FACTS.** Featuring Ralph Nurnberger, Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University. The event will be held at the JCC on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. It is free and open to the public.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**"AZAFEA - A SPANISH ODYSSEY"** - The Lev-Yulzari Duo comes to Rochester again with special guests Frank London of the Klezmatics and Basya Schechter of Pharaoh's Daughter, on Monday evening, June 26<sup>th</sup>.



# celebrate ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE!

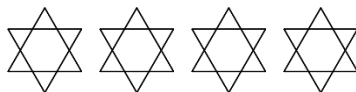
**Yom Ha'Atzmaut** MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017 | 5 - 7:30 PM  
**YOM HAZIKARON** Sunday, April 30, 2017 | 5 - 6PM



A festive celebration of music and dance will mark Israel's 69<sup>th</sup> year as a state on **Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and the Louis S. Wolk JCC, the event takes place at the JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, from 5 to 7:30 PM.

A DJ will get the crowd moving with Israeli songs of yesteryear and today. Food supplied by Sabra Grill, Harvest Eatery and Malek's Bakery will be available for purchase.

From 5 to 6 PM, special children's activities will include storytelling with PJ Library Ambassador Mike Miller, face painting and arts and crafts.



## SHAVUOT DINNER

Join friends from BHBI, Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David for a joint Shavuot dairy dinner at BHBI on Tuesday evening, May 30<sup>th</sup>. The dinner begins at 6:30 PM and will be followed by a Shavuot service at 8:00 PM and a study session at 8:45 PM.

The dinner costs \$12 (\$8 for children ages 12 and under). Reservations are required and must be received either by email (preferred) at [bhbirochester@gmail.com](mailto:bhbirochester@gmail.com) or by sending this reservation form to BHBI so that it is received by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. You may pay at the door or by enclosing a check made out to Congregation BHBI.

Names of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_ # of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are sending in your reservation form to BHBI, send it to BHBI, 1369 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14610.

## 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.

May 5-6	Iyar	May 12-13	Iyar	May 19-20	Iyar-Sivan	May 26-27	Sivan
Harry Cominsky*	11	Libby Goldberg*	18	Esther Leah Silverman*	24	Sam Dubin	2
Tessie Yablin*	11	Maurice Baker	21	Bessie Baker	26	Nathan Epstein*	2
Dr. Murray Cowen*	12	Samuel Gastel*	21	Reuben Cohen	26	Bessie Klein*	2
David Gross*	13	Samuel Sanow*	22	Annette Garver*	26	Rose Levin*	4
Johanna Schild*	13			Leopold Buchbinder*	27	Esther Gertrude Schriba*	4
Haskell Isaac Smith*	15			Charles Bertman*	27	Morris Levine*	5
Samuel Lederman*	16			Isadore D. Goldberg*	27	Ida Sherman*	5
Samuel J. Weisenberg*	16			Harry T. Levinson*	27	Ann Alderman*	6
				Abraham Goldman*	28	Max Atkin*	8
				Arnold Kauffman*	28	Albert Bernstein*	8
				Shirley B. Dvorkin*	29	Bessie Eber*	8
				Samuel Schwartz*	1	Max Vogelstein	8
						Benjamin Weinrib*	8

\*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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)



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](mailto: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.

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WANT TO GET YOUR BULLETIN HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS? Consider having us e-mail it to you! Contact Stan Schaffer at: [stanschaffer@frontiernet.net](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

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