

BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

June President's Message

Friends,

We just had what was probably the shortest and least contentious Annual Meeting that I can recall. Nobody shouted. Nobody stormed out. Nobody threatened to resign. The votes were mostly unanimous. Not like the “bad old days.” That’s not necessarily a good thing. We passed a deficit budget and nobody objected. The relative placidity could be seen to reflect a fatalism, a feeling of “we can’t do anything about this.” The placidity also reflects the small number of people present. There was a quorum, but that’s not a lot of people. We need to be involved and we need to cultivate the attitude that “we can do something about this!”

As I look back at the past year, I see things we can be proud of. Our wheelchair lift is installed and functioning, so that people with wheelchairs and walkers can more comfortably enter our building. (We could still use some help paying for it, hint, hint.) The chronic water leakage in the kitchen ceiling has been finally fixed, as have some problems with our roof. Our building is generally in good shape.

The Rabbi has been an asset to our services. His sermons are thought provoking and his davening is wonderful to listen to. The core of people who keep our services going are doing well, too. Some of our recent bnai mitzvah are continuing to be active in leading services and reading Torah or Haftorah. We old fogeys are still active too. If you haven’t been to services in a while, come see how we’re doing.

The upcoming year will see two bnai mitzvah: Jacob Schaffer in August and Noah Honickman in September. I hope we will see other happy events in the coming months. I’m looking forward to seeing you in shul.

B’shalom

Leon Metlay

BHBI OFFICERS

At the BHBI annual meeting, the following individuals were elected as officers:

President – Leon Metlay
1st Vice-President – Steve Teitel
2nd Vice-President – Judith Mercer
Treasurer – Ira Cohen
Financial Secretary – Stan Schaffer
Recording Secretary – Harris Honickman

MEMBERS OF THE BHBI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paula Bobb
Emily Fishman
Janet Grable
Helen Gulack
Aline Honickman
Katie Metlay
Herb Spencer

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JUNE 2010

Friday	June 4	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 8:27 PM
Saturday	June 5	10:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am with Rabbi Goldberg officiating Blessing for the new month. Torah: Shelach
Sunday	June 6	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	June 9	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study Session at BHBI
Friday	June 11	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 8:31 PM
Saturday	June 12	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Korach
Sunday	June 13	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	June 14	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	June 18	8:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 8:34 PM
Saturday	June 19	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Chukat
Sunday	June 20	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	June 25	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:35 PM
Saturday	June 26	8:00 PM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Balak
Sunday	June 27	9:30 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

TORAH STUDY

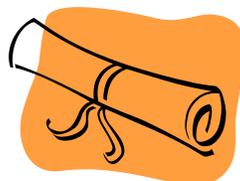
Join congregants from Temple Beth Am, Temple Beth David and BHBI for our monthly Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session at BHBI on Wednesday evening, June 9th at 7:30 p.m. The discussion is always lively and engaging!

WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Please note that our wheelchair lift is now fully installed and operational. If you are someone who has stayed away from services because of difficulty climbing our stairs, know that there is now a safe, easy and convenient way to join us once again. Please come and give it a try! There is a conveniently located button to press should you need assistance. So don't delay any longer – join us at BHBI services and events! Of course, contributions to help with the expense of the lift are still welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our graduates, Matt Honickman and Aviva Schaffer, who are both graduating from Brighton High School this month.





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK
By
RABBI GEOFFREY GOLDBERG

June 2010

First Fruits

Throughout the Festival of Shavuot, which we recently celebrated, a passage in the Mishnah was buzzing in my head. I had wanted to share it, but there was not the opportunity.

In ancient times the Shavuot was also known as *Hag ha-Bikkurim*, the Festival of First Fruits, as laid out in Exodus 23:19 and Deuteronomy 26:1–11. The latter reads,

When you come into the Land... You shall take of the first of all the fruit of the ground... and shall put it in a basket... and shall come to the priests... who will take your basket... and you shall declare... *A wandering Aramean was my father, and he went down to Egypt... and the Egyptians oppressed us... And the Eternal heard our voice... And brought us out of Egypt... and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey... And behold, I have brought of the first fruit of the land... And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Eternal has given you.*

Part of the italicized passage we recite at the Passover Seder.

In a special tractate of the Mishnah, known as *Bikkurim*, we learn how the First Fruits ceremony was conducted. We learn that originally all who knew how to recite the Deuteronomy passage did so from memory, but those who did not know the passage or had forgotten it, were prompted in the declaration by the priests (the priest would recite the words first, and the donor would repeat after him).

Just try to imagine life in ancient Israel. Ordinary people did not have “books” at home. Scrolls containing books of the Bible were kept in the synagogue, the House of Study. Probably only rich persons might have had personal scrolls at home. Even if a person had memorized the passage at the local synagogue, what if he (or she?) forgot it on the way to Jerusalem? How was such a person to look up the passage again? The Mishnah (*Bikkurim* 3:7) tells us that people, rather than shaming themselves when they came to donate their First Fruits at the Temple before the priest, would stay away! They simply didn’t show up! They did not want to suffer embarrassment in public and made to feel bad and inferior to the scholars who spent many hours in the House of Study, or the rich people who might have had personal copies of the books of the Bible.

A way out of this situation was found. The rabbis decided that in future, everyone would be prompted by the priest, whether they knew the passage or not. No one was to suffer embarrassment or shame.

I find this rule of the Mishnah very moving. It overflows with great compassion and profound sensitivity. It is true religion in action. This, too, is Torah!

Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

THE RABBI GOLDBERG FUND

Contributions to the Rabbi Goldberg Fund enable us to engage Rabbi Goldberg to lead additional services at BHBI during the year. Whenever the funds in the Rabbi Goldberg Fund reach a predetermined level, we will schedule an additional service with Rabbi Goldberg. To contribute to this purpose, please send a check in to BHBI with a notation that the contribution should be used for the Rabbi Goldberg Fund.

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.

June 4-5	Sivan	June 11-12	Sivan-Tammuz	June 18-19	Tammuz	June 25-26	Tammuz
Fannie Warnick*	23	Gerald Braz	30	Morris Krinsky*	7	Sarah Singer*	14
Louis Sanow*	24	Hyb Jossem*	30	Sarah Shnitman*	9	Rachel Strauss*	14
Ada Gordon*	26	Marion Bernstein	2	Rabbi Aaron		Rachel Morris*	15
Stella Getz*	27	Samuel Hoffman*	2	Solomon*	9	Yetta Goldman*	16
Mary Goldman*	27	Sara Sarachan*	2	Eva Krinsky*	10	Sarah Marken*	16
Betty Newell*	27	Rose Joffe*	3	Jael Stekel	10	Sam Hector*	20
Eva Wasserman*	27	Jennie Epstein*	4	Phillip Morrow*	11	Harry Sarachan*	20
Elsie Cohen	28	David Glasser*	4	Rochli Rothschild*	11	Rose Schiff*	20
Isadore Goldman*	29			Eli Hobel	12		
						* 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

Memorialize a friend or loved one by purchasing a BHBI memorial plaque. For more information, contact Stan Schaffer at 473-8072 or stanschaffer@frontiernet.net

AMAZON.COM

The next time that you want to buy something from Amazon.com 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. Buy gifts or something for yourself or your family and support BHBI at the same time!!

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 collect a fee for each search you make!

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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

OFFICE: The synagogue office is checked regularly for mail and messages. The synagogue phone is 244-2060. For urgent issues, call Steve Teitel at 473-5741 or Stan Schaffer at 473-8072. You can also e-mail us at BHBI@frontiernet.net

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 Operating, Kiddush, Library, Torah, Rabbi Aaron Solomon Scholarship, Our Youth, Special Events, Rabbi Goldberg 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 months 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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