

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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May President's Message

Friends,

There is a famous bilingual Hebrew-English riddle. When G-d plays tic-tac-toe with the people of Israel, does G-d play the "X" or the "O"? The answer: G-d takes "X", because "HaShem oz l'amo yitayn" (G-d gives his people "oz", which means strength). I recently came across the most brilliant piece of bilingual word play I had ever heard of. I was reading a biographical sketch of a medieval Italian Rabbi named Moses ben Mordecai Bassola (1480-1560). He was a noted Kabbalist and traveler. He wrote a book about his journey to Jerusalem in 1520, which served as a guide book for people traveling to the Holy Land. There was mention of his son Azriel, also a Rabbi, who was teacher to another, better known Rabbi, Leon de Modena (1571-1648). Leon de Modena lived in Venice and was a child prodigy who became a popular author, poet and lecturer, including lecturing in Latin to Christian scholars. He was tragically addicted to gambling, which led to a life of precarious circumstances. One of his poems, written at age 13 is the eulogy to Rabbi Azriel Bassola. It is written in both Hebrew and Italian and it makes sense in either language! You can see it online at <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2625-basilea-basila-bassola-basola-basla>. I am repeatedly amazed at the brilliance of our ancestors. This is why I read so much history.

Upcoming in the month of May are two major events. First is the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 17th. BHBI needs the participation of its members to survive. If the nominating committee calls you, please step forward and be willing to help out by serving on the Board of Trustees. Please come to the meeting to hear what's happening and what will be happening and to ensure that we have a quorum to conduct business.

Memorial Day weekend coincides with the holiday of Shavuot. We are planning joint services with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David. Plans are not finalized at the time I am writing this, but I'm sure we will come up with an interesting program and THERE WILL BE FOOD.

Of course, I look forward to seeing you in shul.

Leon Metlay

BHBI Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m.

Please try to attend.

If you cannot make it, you can give a proxy to another BHBI member to vote on your behalf

(Note: proxies do not count toward a quorum; no member may vote more than 2 proxies)

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2015

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|---|
| Friday | May 1 | 7:00 PM | Shabbat Evening Service at Heather Heights in Pittsford Light candles at 7:52 PM |
| Saturday | May 2 | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Acharei-Kedoshim |
| Sunday | May 3 | 9:00 AM | Service, Breakfast and Discussion |
| Friday | May 8 | 7:00 PM | Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at TBK Room 103 Light candles at 8:00 PM |
| Saturday | May 9 | 9:30 AM | Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Emor |
| Sunday | May 10 | 9:00 AM | Service, Breakfast and Discussion |
| Monday | May 11 | 7:30 PM | BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting |
| Friday | May 15 | 7:00 PM | Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:08 PM |
| Saturday | May 16 | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Behar-Bechukotai |
| Sunday | May 17 | 9:00 AM | Service, Breakfast and Discussion |
| | | 3:00 PM | BHBI Annual Congregational Meeting |
| Wednesday | May 20 | 7:30 PM | Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI |
| Friday | May 22 | 7:00 PM | Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 8:15 PM |
| Saturday | May 23 | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Bamidbar Erev Shavuot 1 st Day Service – time and place to be announced |
| Sunday | May 24 | | Shavuot 1 st Day Morning Service – time and place to be announced |
| | | 7:00 PM | Joint Erev Shavuot 2 nd Day Service with Yizkor together with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (TBK Room 103) |
| Monday | May 25 | 9:00 AM | Joint Shavuot 2 nd Day Morning Service with Yizkor together with Temple Beth Am at BHBI |
| Friday | May 29 | 7:00 PM | Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Light candles at 8:22 PM |
| Saturday | May 30 | 10:00 AM | Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at TBK Room 103 Torah: Naso |
| Sunday | May 31 | 9:00 AM | Service, Breakfast and Discussion |

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

This month's Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. at BHBI. Come and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome!

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!

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Sylvia Kowel
Phil and Annette Garver

In memory of Harry Gordon
Phil and Annette Garver

In memory of Benjamin Ritter
Stan and Elaine Schaffer

In memory of Meshulam Langerman
Ayala Emmett

In memory of Rose Dworkin Lewis
Judith Mercer

In memory of Morton Lewis
Judith Mercer

YAHARZEITS

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 1-2 | Iyar | May 15-16 | Iyar-Sivan | May 22-23 | Sivan | May 30-31 | Sivan |
|------------------------|------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------|--|-------|
| David Gross* | 13 | Leopold Buchbinder* | 27 | Morris Levine* | 5 | Minnie Strom* | 12 |
| Johanna Schild* | 13 | Charles Bertman* | 27 | Ida Sherman* | 5 | Rose Sallerson* | 13 |
| Haskell Isaac Smith* | 15 | Isadore D. Goldberg* | 27 | Ann Alderman* | 6 | Janet Riwkin Glaser* | 14 |
| Samuel Lederman* | 16 | Harry T. Levinson* | 27 | Max Atkin* | 8 | Maxine Gold | 17 |
| Samuel J. Weisenberg* | 16 | Abraham Goldman* | 28 | Albert Bernstein* | 8 | Evelyn Goldman | |
| Libby Goldberg* | 18 | Arnold Kauffman* | 28 | Bessie Eber* | 8 | Kauffman* | 17 |
| | | Shirley B. Dvorkin* | 29 | Max Vogelstein | 8 | Louis Maltinsky* | 17 |
| May 8-9 | Iyar | Samuel Schwartz* | 1 | Benjamin Weinrib* | 8 | Sadie Stolnitz* | 17 |
| | | Sam Dubin | 2 | May Cohen* | 9 | Katherine Weinrib* | 17 |
| Maurice Baker | 21 | Nathan Epstein* | 2 | Robert Baker* | 10 | Lyons I. Jossem* | 18 |
| Samuel Gastel* | 21 | Bessie Klein* | 2 | Sarah Osband* | 10 | | |
| Samuel Sanow* | 22 | Rose Levin* | 4 | Jesse Stolnitz* | 10 | | |
| Esther Leah Silverman* | 24 | Esther Gertrude Schriba* | 4 | Harry Strauss* | 11 | | |
| Bessie Baker | 26 | | | | | *Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque | |
| Reuben Cohen | 26 | | | | | | |

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.

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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

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

April 18 Harris and Aline Honickman in memory of Harris' mother, Beverly Honickman
Paul Rosenfeld and Sylvia Rose in memory of Paul's mother, Florence Mayer Rosenfeld
April 25 Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

WHAT IS LAG B'OMER AND HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

The Hebrew letters lamed gimel (lag for short) stand for the number 33 and thus Lag b'Omer designates the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer (which we are instructed to count each day to mark the week of weeks between Passover and Shavuot). In the 2nd century BCE, 24,000 students and disciples of Rabbi Akiva (ancient Israel's greatest sage) died mysteriously during the days following Passover. Thus, to recall this tragedy, traditionally the Omer period is treated as a time of semi-mourning during which one is not supposed to celebrate happy occasions like weddings or even to listen to music. However, on Lag b'Omer, Rabbi Akiva's students stopped dying, and thus that specific day became a day of celebration. Additionally, one of Rabbi Akiva's most outstanding disciples, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the author of the Zohar, later passed away on Lag b' Omer and had asked that the anniversary of his death be celebrated as a happy day. Traditionally, in Israel Lag b' Omer is celebrated with bonfires. Lag b'Omer falls on May 7th this year.

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Judaism & Islam: Stories from the Bible & Quran

This event, sponsored by the Commission on Jewish-Muslim Relations of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and the Greater Rochester Council of Masajid will be held at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Road, on May 3rd at 3 pm and will feature Rabbi Alan Katz and Tricia Pethic discussing Joseph and reconciliation. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 461-0490.

Hold My Hand: An Intergenerational Event for Young Children

The Jewish Federation is sponsoring 'Hold My Hand: An Intergeneration Event for Young Children Ages 0-5' at the JCC's Resource Place on Sunday, May 3rd from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. The event will include story time, music, challah braiding, a craft project and snacks and is free and open to the public.

Israeli Technologies Changing the World's Healthcare

The Jewish Federation's Israel 2015 Series continues with a talk by Canadian-Israeli journalist Viva Sarah Press on how Israeli technology is changing the delivery of healthcare around the world on Monday, May 4th at 7:30 pm at Temple Beth El, 139 S. Winton Road. The event is free and open to the public.

Flag Day Flag Raising Ceremony and Cookout

The JCC will be honoring veterans on Flag Day, Friday, May 8th with a special flag raising ceremony at 11:30 am followed by a cookout. The event is free for veterans. The cost is \$5 for the cookout for non-veterans. Register on the JCC's web site.

Shavuot – On a Small Mountaintop, the World Changed Forever

Join Rabbi Adam Aranov as he explores the meaning of Shavuot and the impact that the Torah has had at the JCC on Sunday, May 17th from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. The event is free and is open to the public, but registration is required. Please contact Joy Getnick at the JCC or register on the JCC's web site.

An Evening with PDQ Bach

Paula Bobb invites BHBI members to attend a concert of eclectic music that she will be performing in at the Hochstein Music School, 50 N. Plymouth Ave on Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 pm. Cost - \$5. Contact Hochstein for more information.

HELP EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN NEPAL

You can help earthquake relief efforts in Nepal by making a contribution to help those in need there through the Jewish Federations of North America's special Nepal earthquake relief web site at <https://secure-fedweb.jewishfederations.org/page/contribute/nepal-relief-fund>

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

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.

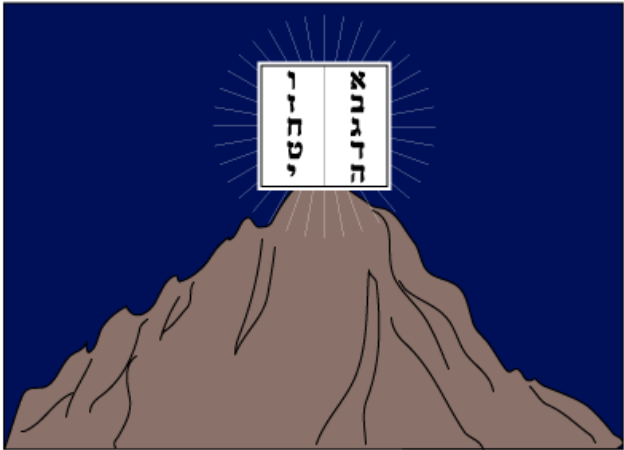
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AD SPONSORS

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HOW DO WE CUSTOMARILY OBSERVE SHAVUOT?

Shavuot, the festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, is one of the 3 major festivals in the Jewish year (the others being Passover and Sukkot). It is customary to study Torah on Shavuot and many congregations have all night learnatons. On the morning of Shavuot, the 10 commandments are read from the Torah. Synagogues and homes are traditionally decorated with fresh flowers to mark the joyous occasion. We also customarily eat a dairy meal as the first meal on Shavuot.

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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