

BHBIRochester.org  
Published Monthly  
Vol. 50/No 5  
Shevat-Adar I 5776  
February 2016

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

# BULLETIN

Editor: Stan Schaffer

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

*First Vice-President: Paula Bobb*  
*Financial Secretary: Harris Honickman*

*Second Vice-President: Stan Schaffer*  
*Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky*

## **February President's Message**

Friends,

The past couple of months have been a little disjointed for me. Specifically, in my Jewish life I have been publicly very active with the Rochester Synagogue Council (RSC - formerly known as the Rochester Area Synagogue Presidents) while privately my Jewish study has greatly diminished. For the past thirty years my wife and I have attended a weekly study group hosted by Ceidlen Beller. For the past seven years, I have studied Talmud twice weekly with Ceidlen's husband Kelly Beller. At the end of November, Kelly and Ceidlen moved to Baltimore to live near their younger son, Charlie, and his family. So suddenly I am deprived of much of my study time. I'm sure I will eventually find other people to study with, but at the moment I am at loose ends. In case you're wondering, I'm not writing about this to get your pity (though a little pity for your hard working President wouldn't be amiss) but rather as a clever segue talk about the Synagogue Council.

The RSC was founded to foster collaboration between the congregations. We will see the first ever collaborative city-wide multi-congregational scholar in residence at the beginning of April. Norma Libman, who has studied and taught about the subject for decades will give 4 talks on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the subject of 'Hidden Jews: the Jews of the Inquisition and Other Hidden Jews Around the World'. Plan to attend them. But that is not all the RSC is planning. Another program will be presented in the Fall, probably aimed at Synagogue Board members and officers. Also, starting soon, we will have an audit of all Jewish adult education programs in the city. Each congregation will soon be getting a form to list all of its educational activities. The plan is to allow everyone to see what programs everyone else is presenting. This may allow congregations to cut down on duplication or to consolidate related programs. It will also allow people like me to find educational opportunities, so that I will be able to remedy my dearth of study time.

One of our congregation's most successful adult education activities has been our ongoing Jewish-Muslim dialogue series (co-sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Center of Rochester, Peace Islands Institute, Temple Beth David, and Temple Beth Am), now in its third year. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> we had our most recent program, a viewing of the film "Arranged" about a young Jewish woman and a young Muslim woman who are coping with their families' efforts to arrange their marriages. It was a wonderful film and presented some interesting topics for discussion. Thank you to Steve Teitel and his helpers for a wonderful program.

An interesting development in our community is the announced move of Temple Beth David into Brighton. They plan to be moving into rented space at Temple B'rith Kodesh by the beginning of March. This will probably promote some increased opportunities for us to collaborate with them in the coming years. One thing to consider is that, in the past, joint activities that we put on with Beth Am and Beth David tended to be in our building because we were halfway between Henrietta and Irondequoit. Now that both of those congregations are in the TBK building, joint activities are more likely to be scheduled over there. On the other hand, our kosher kitchen is much larger and more convenient to use than the kosher kitchen in the TBK building, so we may be seeing more dinners. As an example, the next Shabbat Across America will be on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. In the past these dinners were mostly at Temple Beth Am, but this one might be in our building. Save the date, we'll let you know where it is.

I look forward to seeing you in shul.

*Leon Metlay*

## BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2016

Friday	Feb 5	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 5:09 PM
Saturday	Feb 6	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service      Torah: Mishpatim
Sunday	Feb 7	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Feb 8	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting of the BHBI Board of Trustees
Friday	Feb 12	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am Light candles at 5:18 PM
Saturday	Feb 13	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Terumah
Sunday	Feb 14	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Feb 17	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Feb 19	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 5:27 PM
Saturday	Feb 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service      Torah: Tetzaveh
Sunday	Feb 21	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Feb 26	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service Light candles at 5:36 PM
Saturday	Feb 27	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service      Torah: Ki Tisa
Sunday	Feb 28	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

### **FREE 3-MONTH TRIAL MEMBERSHIP FOR FIRST-TIME NEW MEMBERS**

Let your friends know about BHBI's special [free 3 month trial membership](#) (available to prospective first-time new members only). Have them contact BHBI at 244-2060 or [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com) and we will be happy to give them information about BHBI and this great offer!!

### **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.

### **SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY**

Our next Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah study session will take place at BHBI on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### **JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

All Festival Passes are now on sale through the JCC for this year's Ames Amzalak Rochester International Jewish Film Festival which will be held from July 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Call the JCC at 461-2000 to order your passes.

**DONATIONS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Lottie Fink  
*Jack and Sondra Fink*

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

January 2	The Congregation
January 9	Ruth and Steve Teitel in memory of Ruth's father, Jack Glazer
January 16	Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her father, Stanley Clark
January 23	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!

**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)

**SAVE THE DATES**

We will be joining with Temple Beth Am to have a Shabbat Across America service and dinner on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. More details will be forthcoming.

The Rochester Synagogue Council (RSC) will be sponsoring a scholar-in-residence weekend on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> featuring journalist, lecturer and editor Norma Libman who will speak about 'Hidden Jews: Jews of the Inquisition, the Crypto Jews & Isolated Jewish Communities Around the World'.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR ELDERLY MEMBERS AT THE JEWISH HOME**

Two of our elderly members, Katie Metlay and Rose Israel, now reside at the Jewish Home. Please consider taking the opportunity to go by and visit them.

**PURIM ISN'T IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR – WHAT GIVES?**

This year is a Jewish leap year. In Jewish leap years we add an extra month of Adar, so that there are two Adars (Adar I and Adar II). The extra month is not Adar II but rather is Adar I. Therefore, since Purim falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar in non-leap years, it is celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar II. However, in case you can't wait until then to celebrate Purim, the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar I is known as Purim Katan (Little Purim), so you can celebrate a little of bit of Purim then too!

**EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Operation Thunderbolt – The Miracle of Entebbe** - Chabad and the JCC are sponsoring a talk by Sassy Reuben about the rescue of the hostages at Entebbe 40 years ago at the JCC on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:15. The cost is \$8 for those who register in advance, \$10 at the door. To register, go to [www.chabadrochester.com](http://www.chabadrochester.com) and click on Event Registration.

# 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 5-6	Shevat- Adar I	February 12-13	Adar I	February 19-20	Adar I	February 26-27	Adar I
Marion Bernstein*	27	Betty Glaser	4	Jenny Goldstein		Edna Astrachan*	19
Ada Goldstein*	27	Anna Ruderman*	4	Robinson*	11	Sam Malina*	19
Samuel Keyfetz*	27	Hyman Sablowsky*	4	Eva Jenny Cenzer*	13	Anna Steinmetz*	19
Lottie Fink*	29	Celia Lapidés*	5	Rose Riwkin*	13	Louis Rickler*	20
Rose Ring*	29	Dora Newell*	6	Aaron Baker	14	Harry Aranow*	21
Boris Schwarts	30	William Schwartz*	6	Marion Carton Gulack	14	Carl Astrachan*	21
Sam Finkelman*	1	Edith Berkowitz*	10	Gussie Gillenson		Leila Markus*	21
Werner Schaffer	2	Samuel Goldstein*	10	Bernstein*	15	Herman Sarachan*	21
Philip Schiff*	3	Fanny Tecler Levinson*	10	Irvin Boyar*	15	Percy Cohen*	22
		Max Metlay	10	Stanley Muszynski*	15	Julie Feuerberg	24
				Abraham Alderman*	16		
				Muriel Hobel*	17		
*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.

*Rochester's  
Jewish Funeral Home*



*Establishing  
a New Tradition*

**BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.**

*Graveside, Temple or Chapel Services.  
Now respectfully maintaining the PARSKY records.*

Jarrold M. Krieger  
*owner & 4th generation Rochesterian*  
www.BrightonMemorialChapel.com

**427-8520**  
3325 Winton Road South  
S/W corner of Jefferson & Winton Rds

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)

## 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)

## 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!

## IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to note the passing of our long-time member, Laura Levinson, who passed away in New Jersey on January 15<sup>th</sup>. We also mark the passing of our former member, Dr. Bernard Yablin, who passed away on January 17<sup>th</sup>. We extend our condolences to both their families.

## CRYPTO-JEWS

In 1492, the Spanish monarchs decreed that all of the Jews in Spain would have to convert to Catholicism or leave the country. Of the several hundred thousand Jews living in Spain, about half left into exile, where they could continue to practice their faith openly. The other half remained and converted. Five years later, the king of Portugal also issued an edict forcing the Jews in the country to convert.

Some of these *conversos* accepted baptism sincerely, but other converted in name only, while practicing their ancestral faith in secret. Life became very difficult for these crypto-Jews, or secret Jews, as there developed within the Spanish Catholic Church an institution known as the Holy Office of the Inquisition. The Inquisition had no jurisdiction over Jews, but as Catholics, these crypto-Jews were vulnerable to persecution.

That same year, Christopher Columbus uncovered an entire “New World” for European eyes. Among the thousands of immigrants to settle in Spain’s (and Portugal’s) American colonies were Iberian crypto-Jews. There they could remain subjects of the monarchs of Spain and Portugal, living nominally as Catholics, but able to practice Judaism secretly away from the prying eyes of the inquisitors, initially, at least. While inquisitorial persecution was a large “push” factor in emigrating from the Iberian Peninsula to the Americas, economic opportunity served as an important “pull” factor, as well.

Ultimately, the Inquisition became established in the Spanish colonies, and sporadic campaigns against Mexican crypto-Jews in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries stimulated a migration of these people to the far northern frontier of Mexico, including New Mexico. Inquisition trial records show clearly that not only could crypto-Jews be found among the New Mexico colonists in the mid-1600s, but more importantly, with few exceptions, their presence did not attract attention of the authorities.

Today in New Mexico vestiges of this crypto-Jewish heritage can still be found among the Hispano community. Some families retain only suggestive practices, disconnected from any consciousness of a Jewish past, such as the lighting of candles on Friday night, observance of the Sabbath on Saturday, refraining from eating pork products, and male infant circumcision. (The practice of male infant circumcision can be traced back to the period prior to the 1930s and 1940s when doctors were advising that this procedure be done for hygienic purposes.) In other cases, knowledge of a Jewish past has been passed down through the generations to the present time.

- *New Mexico Jewish Historical Society*

If you would like to find out more about the *Conversos*, make it a point to attend the scholar in residence weekend that the Rochester Synagogue Council is planning for April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> where you can attend a series of talks led by Norma Libman, an expert on the hidden Jews of the American southwest.

Surprisingly, an excellent source of additional information about the *Conversos* is the web site of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico at <https://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/jewish-american-heritage/conversos-crypto-jews>

## FILM SCREENING

**Advanced Style – at the St. John’s Brickstone, 1325 Elmwood Avenue, Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**

Advanced Style examines the lives of seven unique New Yorkers whose eclectic personal style and vital spirit have guided their approach to aging. Based on Ari Seth Cohen’s famed blog of the same name, this film paints intimate and colorful portraits of independent, stylish women aged 62 to 95 who are challenging conventional ideas about beauty, aging and Western culture’s increasing obsession with youth.

The film runs for 72 minutes and will be followed by a discussion with fashion consultant Monica Flaum. Tickets are \$8 for JCC members, \$11 for non-members.



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 [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.

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](http://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](mailto:stanschaffer@frontiernet.net)

Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel  
1369 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14610