

BHBIRochester.org
Published Monthly
Vol. 51/No 3
Kislev-Tevet 5777
December 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

December President's Message

Friends:

You may have noticed that we recently had a national election. I have voted in every presidential election since 1972. Many of those elections made me anxious for many reasons, but this is the one that made me the most anxious as a Jew. I don't think this was only my experience. There were accusations made that Mrs. Clinton would be bad for Israel. There were accusations made that Mr. Trump had anti-Semitic elements in his campaign. Both major candidates had daughters who married Jews. There was a lot to talk about. The election was often a topic of conversation at our congregation's Shabbat lunches. By the way, I congratulate the congregation that we had, and continue to have, such civil discourse. The election is over, but there is still much discussion of what the future might hold.

A recent lunch-time discussion centered on the "Prayer for Our Country" which we read after the Torah service, along with prayers for the Congregation, for scholars, and for the State of Israel. The conversation sent several of us to reference books looking for sources. There was a disagreement between Harris Honickman and Steve Teitel about the source of an admonition to pray for our country. Harris said it was in the Book of Jeremiah, Steve said it was in Pirke Avot in the Mishnah. They were both right. Jeremiah, writing 2500 years ago, tells the exiles in Babylonia that they should build houses, plant gardens, have children, and carry on with their lives. Then he adds: "Seek the peace of the city into which I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the L-rd for it: for in its peace shall you have peace." (29:7). Pirke Avot is a collection of wise sayings of the early Rabbis, from the days of the Hasmonean kings (1st century BCE) to the time of the Bar Kochba rebellion (2nd century CE). Rabbi Chanina, who lived before the destruction of the Temple, said: "Pray for the welfare of the government, since but for the fear thereof men would swallow each other alive." (Avot 3:2). Jeremiah and Chanina are both telling their people to pray for their conquerors, Babylon and Rome. Even if the government is against you, you pray for its welfare, so that it will protect you. According to the Talmud (Yoma 69a), when Alexander the Great came to Jerusalem, he was met by the High Priest, Simon the Just, who asked him "Is it possible that star-worshippers should mislead you to destroy the house wherein prayers are said for you and your kingdom that it never be destroyed?" Thus, praying for the government seems to date back at least to 333 BCE.

There is some irony here. Jews have been the outsiders for much of our history, and have often been accused of being more loyal to our people than to the nation in which we live. Yet, we always pray for the nation. The origins of the "modern" wording of the prayer appear to be in the middle ages. According to the Hertz siddur, the words date from Worms in the 11th century. The words have varied from country to country and from century to century. As we look into the future we will continue to fervently pray: "Do thou instruct them out of thy law, that they may administer all affairs of state in justice and equity, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, right and freedom, may forever abide among us."

The major event of December is Chanukah. We will be having our Chanukah party on the evening of December 25th. See page 5 of this bulletin for details. Please plan to join us.

Try to stay warm!

Leon Metlay

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2016

Saturday	Dec 3	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Toldot
Friday	Dec 9	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103)
Saturday	Dec 10	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Vayetzei
Sunday	Dec 11	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Dec 12	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Saturday	Dec 17	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Vayishlach
Sunday	Dec 18	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Dec 21	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Synagogue Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	Dec 24	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Vayeishev Blessing of the New Month
Sunday	Dec 25	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion BHBI/Beth Am Joint Chanukah Party at BHBI (Candle Lighting at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00)
Friday	Dec 30	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI
Saturday	Dec 31	10:00 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am (at TBK Room 103) Torah: Miketz

SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Friday, Dec. 2 – 4:17 PM
 Friday, Dec. 9 – 4:16 PM
 Friday, Dec. 16 – 4:18 PM
 Friday, Dec. 23 – 4:21 PM
 Friday, Dec. 30 – 4:26 PM

MAKE YOUR CHANUKAH 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 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!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky and to Tammy Strubel for donating the beautiful flowers that graced our bimah on the High Holy Days.

FIRES IN ISRAEL

Jewish Federations are collecting funds to help address the impact of over 200 fires raging across Israel, which have already displaced nearly 100,000 people. In many places, essential services such as electricity and train lines have been interrupted. Many major roads have been closed intermittently. The impact on Israelis will be long-lasting. Jewish federations around the U.S. are collecting funds to help the Israeli public with urgent and emerging needs. You can contribute through the Rochester Jewish Federation at www.jewishrochester.org or at <https://secure-fedweb.jewishfederations.org/page/contribute/israel-fire-emergency-fund>

DONATIONS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bernard Lipschutz
Judith Mercer

In memory of Ida Phillips
Mitchel Markus

In memory of Herbert Hirsch
Phyllis Hirsch, Sue Hirsch and Debi Boyer

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Thanks to the following people for contributing to our High Holy Day Appeal:

Sue Baker
Ira Cohen
Philip Garver
Harris and Aline Honickman
Arthur Mercer
Judith Mercer
Jeff Nidetz and Leslie Toker
Stan and Elaine Schaffer
Tamara Strubel
Steve and Ruth Teitel
Peg Toker
Hermann Vogelstein

If you haven't had a chance to send in your donation yet, you can still do so!

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 5	Ellen Franke in honor of Ira Cohen's birthday
November 12	Hermann and Esther Vogelstein in memory of their mother, Ingeborg Vogelstein
November 19	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of the birthdays of Leon's sister, Beth Metlay, Nina's brother, Daniel Klionsky, and their nieces, Robyn and Katharine Carney
November 26	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and in honor of Leon's birthday

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, December 21st 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

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.

December 2-3	Kislev	December 9-10	Kislev	December 23-24	Kislev – Tevet	December 30-31	Tevet
Sam Morris*	4	Rose Alderman*	10	Ida Bobb	24	Morris Kanthor*	3
Israel Schriba*	4	Feist Hess*	10	Emanuel Kovelski*	24	Morton Fink*	4
Jacob Smilack*	4	Eleanor Teitel	10	Sarah Hoffman*	25	Abraham Weinstein*	4
Dorothy Lewis Cohen*	5	Dr. Mark Blue	11	Hyman Snider*	25	Abraham Stolnitz*	5
Mark H. Keyfetz*	5	Wolf Schild*	12	Michael Miller*	27	Barbara Bertman*	6
Rachel Olkes*	6	Jack Soble*	14	Emma Aranow*	28	Sigmund Traub*	6
Meyer Kovelski*	7			Karen Cohen	28	Meriam Jossem*	7
Fanny Titof	8	December 16-17	Kislev			Mary Franke	8
Nathan Bernstein*	9					David Goodman*	8
Beatryce Cohen*	9	Bernard Rodney	17	*Denotes name			
Joseph Louis Shapiro*	9	Edward M. Hart	19	memorialized on			
		Hyman Ring*	20	BHBI Memorial			
		Joseph Goldberg*	21	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

*Rochester's
Jewish Funeral Home*



*Establishing
a New Tradition*

BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.

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

427-8520

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

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

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.

CHANUKAH TRIVIA

Which letter on Israeli dreidels is different from the letters on the dreidels that we use in this country? See page 6.



**Come One, Come All
To the Joint BHBI-Beth Am Chanukah Party and Holiday Dinner**

Sunday, December 25th at BHBI

Snacks and a get together at 5 pm

Hanukkah candle lighting at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6 pm

Don't forget to bring your menorah.

Cost \$12 for adults, \$8 for children ages 12 and younger (\$36 family maximum)

RSVPs should be received by 5 pm on December 19th

You may e-mail your RSVP to bhbirochester@gmail.com, you may call the BHBI office at 244-2060 to leave a message, or you may send the completed form below to BHBI, 1369 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610.

Name(s): _____

of Adults Attending: _____ @ \$12 each

of Children 12 Years of Age and Under Attending: _____ @ \$8 each

Total amount remitted: \$ _____

At Our Chanukah Party, We Always Enjoy Reciting 'The Night Before Chanukah'. Here Are the Lyrics:

"Twas the night before Chanukah, boychicks and maidels
Not a sound could be heard, not even the draidels.
The Menorah was set on the chimney, alight
In the kitchen the Bubba hut gechapt a bite.
Salami, pastrami, a glessala tay
And zayerah pickles with bagels, oy vay!
Gezunt and geschmack, the kinderlech felt
While dreaming of tagelach and Chanukah gelt.

The clock on the mantlepiece away was tickin'
And Bubba was serving a schtickala chicken.
A tumult arose like a thousand brauches,
Santa had fallen and broken his tuches.
I put on my slippers, eins, tsvay, drei,
While Bubba was now on the herring and rye.
I grabbed for my bathrobe and buttoned my gotkes
While Bubba was busy devouring the latkes.

To the window I ran and to my surprise
A little red yarmulka greeted my eyes.
Then he got to the door and saw the Menorah,
"Yiddishe kinder," he said, "Kenehora.
I thought I was in a goyisha hoise,
But as long as I'm here, I'll leave a few toys."

With much gesshray, I asked, "Du bist a Yid?"
"Avada, mein numen is Schloimey Claus, kid."
"Come into the kitchen, I'll get you a dish,
A guppell, a schtickala fish."
With smacks of delight, he started his fressen,
Chopped liver, knaidlach and kreplah gegessen.
Along with his meal, he had a few schnapps,
When it came to eating, this boy was the tops.

He asked for some knishes with pepper and salt,
But they were so hot, he yelled "Oy Gevalt."
Unbuttoning his haizen, he rose from the tisch,
And said, "Your Kosher essen is simply delish."
As he went to the door, he said "I'll see you later,
I'll be back next Pesach, in time for the Seder."

More rapid than eagles his prancers they came,
As he whistled and shourted and called them by name:
"Now Izzy, now Morris, now Yitzak, now Sammy,
Now Irving and Maxie, and Moishe and Mannie."
He gave a gesshray as he drove out of sight:
"Gooten Yomtov to all, and to all a good night."

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

CHANUKAH TRIVIA ANSWER: Dreydels in this country have the Hebrew letters Nun, Gimel, Hey, Shin standing for *Nes Gadol Hayah Sham (A Great Miracle Happened There)*. In Israel, dreydels are marked with the letter Pey instead of the letter Shin so that the letters stand for *Nes Gadol Hayah Po (A Great Miracle Happened Here)*.

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