

BHBIRochester.org
Published Monthly
Vol. 52/No 4
Tevet 5778
January 2018

Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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January President's Message

Friends,

Our Chanukah Party had a nice turnout. My thanks to Judith Mercer and Paula Bobb for their help in the kitchen, and to Ira Cohen, Leon Metlay, and Nina Klionsky for help setting up and cleaning up. Also thanks to Andrea Paprocki for the Jewish Trivial Pursuit game, and to Leon as Master of Ceremonies, as we saw who among us was the most trivially Jewish. Thanks also to Leon for importing a cohort of Metlays to bolster our holiday cheer.

The internet is a wonderful thing. Whenever you are in doubt, or whenever you want to explore, just Google (or Bing, if you prefer). In the recent weeks' parashot we have been reading the story of Joseph in Egypt, how he rose from being a prisoner to be head of Pharaoh's household. How he foresaw the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine, organized the storing up of grain to sustain the nation during the famine, and also how he used that position to acquire all the assets in Egypt (except for those of the priests) for Pharaoh and thereby reduced the population to being essentially share croppers.

It is interesting to read some modern takes on this story, and so let me present you with some. Shawn Ruby, in the Times of Israel, writes an article "Miketz: Joseph, the first Keynesian?" (<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/miketz-joseph-the-first-keynesian/>). He concludes, "Joseph's example teaches us the important role government has in smoothing out the ravages of the business cycle. Saving a surplus during the years of plenty and spending during the lean years is an ancient formula, backed by modern economics since the Great Depression. Unfortunately, it has been forgotten by too many modern-day policy makers." But this point of view is rebutted by Daniel Kaganovich and Jeremy England, also in the Times of Israel, who write, "The road to Egypt: Job creators in the Ancient World" (<https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-road-to-egypt-job-creators-in-the-ancient-world/>). They argue that the story is a tale of warning against big government, ". . . what starts as a grain shortage brought on by natural cycles in the east wind and the Nile's ebb and flow is leveraged by a government with authoritarian ambitions to utterly enslave the people – better yet, to have the people beg the government to enslave them! This much is clear: the more the coercive power of the state is deployed in the name of preventing individuals from making bad decisions about how to arrange their own sustenance, the greater will be the eventual loss of individual liberty. . . Of course, the state cannot give anything it does not first take by threat of force, yet when the meal comes back to us, we still often think we are getting something for nothing." More practical and less ideological are the thoughts of Yossi Sheffi who writes from the MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics (<http://supplychainmit.com/2017/04/25/joseph-the-logistician-a-tale-of-our-time/>), "The story demonstrates several key principles that are as true today as they were during Joseph's time in Egypt (somewhere between 1500 and 2000 BC). First, the importance of forecasting and interpretation of various warning signals in avoiding supply chain disruptions; second, the role of redundancy in general and especially safety stock in allowing the supply chain to keep delivering goods under adverse conditions; third, the important role of regulatory agencies in preventing abuses of monopoly power – even if it comes out of brilliant business acumen. Finally, Joseph's story demonstrates that good logistics skills are an important path to an upper management position." Something for everyone!

See you in shul,

Steve Teitel

**Shake the winter blahs.
Come join us for services soon and become re-energized!**

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JANUARY 2018

Saturday	Jan 6	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Services Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Jan 7	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Jan 9	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday	Jan 12	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (TBK Room 103)
Saturday	Jan 13	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Torah: Va'eira Blessing of the New Month
Sunday	Jan 14	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Wednesday	Jan 17	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	Jan 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Bo
Sunday	Jan 21	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Saturday	Jan 27	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Beshalach
Sunday	Jan 28	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Friday, Jan. 5 – 4:32 PM

Friday, Jan. 12 – 4:39 PM

Friday, Jan. 19 – 4:48 PM

Friday, Jan. 26 – 4:57 PM

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our next Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be scheduled on Wednesday, January 17th at 7:30 p.m. at BHBI.

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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!

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.

BOOK REVIEW

I've been reading a book that was lent to me by a friend. The book, titled *The Fugu Plan* by Marvin Tokayer and Mary Swartz, is the story of the Jews who escaped the Holocaust by traveling from Eastern Europe via the USSR to Kobe, Japan and later were relocated from there to Shanghai after World War II began. The last part of the book, describing the very difficult conditions that the 17,000 Jewish refugees in Shanghai faced during the war, particularly once the Shanghai ghetto was established, is particularly difficult for me to read about because my parents and grandparents lived through that. From this book, I also learned about the secret plan that the Nazis had developed and tried to convince the Japanese to implement in order to kill all of the Jews who had sought refuge in Shanghai. It's worth reading if you are interested learning more about Jews who escaped the Holocaust. – *Stan Schaffer*

DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Louis Gastel
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In memory of Sarah Gastel
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In memory of Ida Taub
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Stan and Elaine Schaffer

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KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Dr. Bernard Klionsky
Tammy Strubel

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 2	The Congregation
December 9	The Congregation
December 16	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of Hannah's 24 th birthday Ellen Franke in memory of Ira Cohen's late wife, Karen Cohen
December 23	Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her aunt, Barbara Bertman

TU B'SHEVAT

From Chabad.org

Tu b'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, will be commemorated this year on Wednesday, January 31st. According to Biblical law, there is a seven year agricultural cycle, concluding with the Sabbatical year. When the Temple stood in Jerusalem, on years one, two, four and five of this cycle, farmers were required to separate a tenth of their produce and eat it in Jerusalem. This tithe is called Maaser Sheni, the Second Tithe, because it is in addition to the (two percent which must be given to the Kohain, and the) ten percent which is given to the Levite. On the third and sixth years of the cycle, instead of the owners eating the Maaser Sheni in Jerusalem, they gave this second tithe to the poor, who were permitted to consume it wherever they wished.

In the Sabbatical year, no tithes are separated. All produce which grows during this year is ownerless and free for anyone to take. It was therefore of vital importance to ascertain when the new year started for produce. The Rabbis established that a fruit which blossomed before the 15th of Shevat is produce of the previous year. If it blossomed afterwards, it is produce of the "new year." [By comparison, grains, vegetables, and legumes have the same New Year as humans, the 1st of Tishrei.] Why is this so? In the Mediterranean region, the rainy season begins with the festival of Sukkot. It takes approximately four months (from Sukkot, the 15th of Tishrei, until the 15th of Shevat) for the rains of the new year to saturate the soil and trees, and produce fruit. All fruit which blossom beforehand are a product of the rains of the previous year, and are tithed together with the crops of the previous year. Although this day is Rosh Hashanah for *trees*, we attach special significance to this holiday because "Man is [compared to] the tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19). Through cultivating strong roots – faith and commitment to G-d – we produce many fruits—Torah and Mitzvot.

Observances and Customs

On this day it is customary to partake of the fruit with which the Holy Land is praised (Deuteronomy 8:8): olives, dates, grapes, figs and pomegranates. If tasting any of these fruit for the first time this season, remember to recite the *Shehecheyanu* blessing. (A blessing recited on joyous occasions, thanking G-d for "sustaining us and enabling us to reach this occasion." This blessing is recited before the standard "*Borei Pri Ha'etz*" blessing recited before eating fruit.)

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Are You Between Ages 20 & 50 And Interested in Engaging with Israelis from Modi'in?

Ramim is a Partnership2Gether(P2G) initiative sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester in conjunction with the Jewish Agency in Israel that offers opportunities for leadership development and people-to-people connections between Rochester and Modi'in, Israel. Participants will:

- Embark on a global partnership with dynamic groups from Rochester and Israel.
- Be paired with a program partner from Modi'in, Israel, our Federation's Partnership2Gether program (P2G) city
- Host a partner from Modi'in in Rochester in July 2018. Travel to Israel in October 2018.
- Delve into Judaism... religious practices, ethnicity, politics and culture.
- Engage in discourse on the future of Judaism. Leadership development activities are promoted.
- Plan and participate in a Ramim community impact project during the program and following the travel to Israel.
- Change themselves, their community...their world.

Application deadline is January 8, 2018. Go to <https://www.jewishrochester.org/ramim> to download information about Ramim 4. Contact Judy Abelman at jabelman@jewishrochester.org with questions.

JCC Annual Gala

January 10th, beginning at 7 pm

This year's gala will honor Geula von Perlstein with the Tikkun Olam Award, Valerie and Jon Alhart with the Young Leadership Award and the Brighton Police Department, Brighton Fire Department and Brighton Community Ambulance with the Community Partnership Award. For information or to purchase tickets go to www.jccrochester.org/events/special-events/annual-gala

Jewish Values in Action Daytime Film Series

January 23rd, 1-3 pm at the JCC: Before the Flood (2016, 96 minutes) – free admission, no registration required

In this film, Academy Award-Winning Filmmaker, Fisher Stevens, and Academy Award-Winning Actor, environmental activist, and U.N. Messenger of Peace, Leonardo DiCaprio, present a riveting account of the dramatic changes occurring around the world due to climate change, as well as what actions we as individuals and as a society can take to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet. A short discussion will follow the screening.

Sustainability in the Modern Age

January 25th, 12-2 pm at the JCC – free admission, no registration required

Join Jackie Ebner, PhD for an engaging conversation about the challenges of sustainability in the modern age. This program is part of Congregatings: A Community Brown-Bag Lunch and Learn Series for Adults, which meets monthly for engaging conversations and presentations on a great variety of topics.

Healing from Intergenerational PTSD of the Holocaust – One Family's Story

January 28th, 2-4 pm at the JCC – free admission

Sharon Korman, daughter of Rochester Holocaust Survivor, Jeannine Korman, and a psychotherapist with 34 years of clinical experience, will present on the passing on of PTSD in Holocaust families and will offer strategies to help families heal from that intergenerational trauma. To register, go to <https://jewishrochester.org/events/healing-from-intergenerational-ptsd-of-the-holocaust-one-family-story>

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND ISRAEL

Martin Luther King Day this year falls on January 15th. In conjunction with that commemoration, the Editor sought out information about King and Israel. King was a strong supporter of Israel. At a meeting of the Rabbinical Assembly in 1968, two weeks before he was assassinated, he said, "Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect her right to exist, its territorial integrity and the right to use whatever sea lanes it needs. Israel is one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy. Please for Israel means security, and that security must be a reality." He is also attributed with having said, "When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. You're talking anti-Semitism" in response to the comments of a student who had attacked Zionism during a dinner event with Dr. King in 1968.

Did Dr. King ever visit Israel? The answer is almost, but unfortunately not. He was scheduled to visit Israel in late 1967 after a great deal of time was spent by his aides who made extensive plans for the visit in conjunction with the Israeli government. Unfortunately, as a result of the 6-Day War in June 1967, King put his plans for a visit on hold because he did not want to insert himself into the conflict. For more information, go to www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/martin-luther-king-and-israel

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.

January 5-6	Tevet	January 12-13	Tevet - Shevat	January 19-20	Shevat	January 26-27	Shevat
Estelle Hirsch*	19	Samuel Meilstein*	26	Etta Levinson*	4	Miriam Weinberger	12
Shie Schnidman*	19	Ida Boyarsky*	27	Ida Silver*	4	Abraham Newell*	13
Anna Buff*	21	Philip Hershkowitz	27	Sidney Appelbaum*	6	Anna Sanow*	13
Benjamin Dvorkin*	21	Jack Glazer	28	Jacob Komenski*	6	Stanley Clark*	16
Goldie Simon*	23	Joe Lazarus*	28	Gidda Strauss*	6	Morris Gurian*	17
Leah Keyfetz*	24	Jean Spencer	1	Morris Suskind*	7		
Esther Sanzel*	24	Morris Weinstein*	2	Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8		
				Herman Strauss*	8	*Denotes name memorialized on	
				Dvora Brodie*	9	BHBI Memorial	
				Samuel Goldman*	9	Plaque	
				Daniel Hirsch*	10		

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

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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

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

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!

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

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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