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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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January President's Message

Friends,

Were this an ordinary month, I'd be using this column to tell you about our Chanukah Party [it was great!], thanking all the many people who helped [Thank You! Thank You!], and about the very nice turnout we had [over 40 people!]. But for me this past month has been no ordinary month. It was the month we had to put our 14 year old dog to sleep.

In popular culture the dog is "man's best friend." But in Jewish culture, dogs have usually not been regarded with such enthusiasm. In the Torah the dog is viewed as an unclean animal, a savage scavenger. One cannot use money obtained from selling a dog to buy an animal for sacrifice in the Temple. Dogs do not fare much better in the Talmud. "A person should not raise a dog unless it is chained down." Rabbi Eliezer the Great says, "He who breeds dogs is like a person who breeds swine . . . those who breed dogs are cursed." In the Zohar, the main text of Jewish mysticism, dogs are symbols of the demonic, and evil in the world is described as being like a vicious dog on a long leash. Moving on to later day Yiddish culture, dogs were often viewed as the unfriendly agents of gentile landowners and other oppressors. Sholem Aleichem wrote, "If a Jew has a dog, either the dog is no dog, or the Jew is no Jew." A particularly offensive Yiddish insult is "du bist a hunt mit di oyern (you are a dog with ears)."

Yet all is not negative about dogs. In Exodus one finds the law that one should give treif meat torn by beasts in the field to dogs; later midrash interpreted this as a reward for the dogs not barking at the Israelites when they departed from Egypt. Of the 12 spies that Moses sent to Canaan, only Caleb and Joshua argued that the people should trust G-d and go in to possess the land. The name Caleb in Hebrew is spelt with the same letters as the word for dog – kelev – and is often translated as meaning "faithful, whole hearted" (kaf+lamed = "all", lamed+vav = "heart"); what description could be more appropriate for a dog? In the Talmud it says, "Dwell not in a town where no barking of dogs is heard," for barking dogs is a sign that the town is well guarded (I wish our neighbor had this attitude).

More generally Jewish thought teaches that one must be kind to animals, for one who can be cruel to an animal will wind up being cruel to people. I believe that, not only do we cultivate kindness by treating animals well, we may even learn kindness and other positive traits from such interactions. As I remember my dog, the thing that comes most to mind is that all our dog wanted to do was to be with us: in the living room, in the dining room, in the bedroom, in the bed, in the bathroom – just not in the car, which usually meant a trip to the vet. I recall many evenings with my wife and dog in the bedroom watching TV, and me at the dining room table working, only to look up and see my dog waiting by me. What did he want? To go outside? No. Something to eat? No. What he wanted was for me to stop working, go into the bedroom, and get into bed with everyone else. A more loyal, happy, constant friend I have not known. Jewish tradition frowns upon mourning the loss of a pet with the same rituals reserved for humans. No kaddish. So I will end simply with, Goodnight sweet Max, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.



See you in shul,

Steve Teitel

Join BHBI and TBA for a Tu B'Shevat seder and dessert at BHBI on Sunday, January 20th at 7 pm (RSVP to BHBIRochester@gmail.com)

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JANUARY 2019

Saturday	Jan 5	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Va'eira
Sunday	Jan 6	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Friday	Jan 11	7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth Am (TBK Room 103)
Saturday	Jan 12	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am at BHBI– Torah: Bo
Sunday	Jan 13	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
Monday	Jan 14	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	Jan 16	7:30 PM	Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Saturday	Jan 19	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: B'Shalach
Sunday	Jan 20	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion
		7:00 PM	Joint BHBI-TBA Tu B'Shevat Seder followed by dessert at BHBI
Saturday	Jan 26	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service Torah: Yitro
Sunday	Jan 27	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast and Discussion

SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

Friday, January 4 – 4:30 PM
 Friday, January 11 – 4:37 PM
 Friday, January 18 – 4:45 PM
 Friday, January 25 – 4:54 PM

MAKE YOUR PURCHASES AT AMAZON and GOODSHOP 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 and Goodshop and support BHBI financially at the same time. Just go to the BHBI web page at www.BHBIRochester.org, go to the Donate page and click on the Amazon or Goodshop link. Each time you make a purchase after linking to Amazon or Goodshop from our web page, BHBI gets a percentage of the purchase price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes!

GOODSEARCH.ORG

Goodsearch.org 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.org, log-in (after signing up and designating BHBI as your preferred non-profit), enter the search term that you want and every time that you do a search from that site BHBI will get a small fee. BHBI will benefit from each search you make! You can also reach the Goodshop internet marketplace site from Goodsearch.org, but remember to sign in before purchasing anything so that BHBI benefits.

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

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our next Small Conservative Shul Collaborative Torah Study session will be held at BHBI on Wednesday, January 16th at 7:30 p.m.

DONATIONS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
GENERAL FUND

Nina Klionsky and Leon Metlay

Sue Ann Baker

In memory of Philip Senzel

Joyce and Bruce Senzel

In memory of Barbara Bertman

Renee Bertman

In memory of Abe and Alice Lapides

Suzanne Jacobs

Mark Bobb

Moris and Terry Amon

In memory of Emma Aranow

Dennis and Eileen Kovel

In memory of Sigmund Traub

Ken and Mollie Traub

In memory of Benjamin and Celia Lapides

Suzanne Jacobs

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 1	The Congregation
December 8	Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her aunt, Barbara Bertman
December 15	The Congregation
December 22	Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of Hannah's birthday Phil Garver in memory of his father, Nathan Goldberg

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

L'Chaim Film Series at the Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman Museum at 7 pm on Sundays

Crossing Delancy - Sunday, January 6; The Jazz Singer – Sunday, January 13; Broadway Danny Rose – Sunday, January 20. Admission to these films is free.

The Climate on College Campuses

Tuesday, January 8 at 7 pm at the JCC

Join a conversation with Matthew Berger, VP of Communication and Senior Advisor to the Israel Action Program of Hillel International, about Jewish identity, anti-Semitic incidents, anti-Israel activities and divestment activities on American college campuses. Admission is free but space is limited. Please RSVP to Samantha Reak at sreak@jewishrochester.org

JCC Annual Gala

Saturday evening January 26

Go to <https://jccrochester.org/events/special-events/annual-gala> or call the JCC at 461-2000 x368 for more information or to purchase tickets.

International Holocaust Memorial Day Program: Who Will Write Our History

Sunday January 27 with screenings at 3 pm and 7 pm at the Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman Museum

"Who Will Write Our History" is a film that tells the story of a clandestine group that vowed to defeat Nazi propaganda with pen rather than sword. The film mixes the writings of the Oyneg Shabes Archive with new interviews, rarely seen archival footage, and stunning dramatizations to transport you inside the Warsaw Ghetto and the lives of these courageous resistance fighters. NOTE: Screenings will be followed by the Facebook Live post-film discussion from Paris (recorded earlier in the day) with Executive Producer Nancy Spielberg, Director Roberta Grossman, and author Samuel Kassow.

Cost: Free admission but tickets are necessary. Go to <https://www.jewishrochester.org/events/international-holocaust-remembrance-day-program-who-will-write-our-history> or to <http://www.rjff.org/> to obtain tickets.



Celebrate Israel

Wednesday, January 30, 7pm
JCC Auditoriums

An evening to celebrate all things Israel. Jewish National Fund (JNF) representative, Dana Gerby Klein, will speak about what Israel does for us both locally and globally, followed by wine tasting and Israeli-inspired nosh.

For more information, contact Joy Getnick at jgetnick@jccrochester.org or at ext. 239.

Free. All are welcome.

Sponsored by the Rabbi Shaya and Nechie Kilimnick Israel Resource Center in partnership with the Louis S. Wolk JCC of Greater Rochester.




 Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester
 The William and Mildred Levine Building
 1200 Edgewood Avenue | Rochester, NY 14618

jccrochester.org
 (585) 461-2000

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 4-5	Tevet-Shevat	January 11-12	Shevat	January 18-19	Shevat	January 25-26	Shevat
Jack Glazer	28	Sidney Applebaum*	6	Abraham Newell*	13	Besse Gold	20
Joe Lazarus*	28	Jacob Komenski*	6	Anna Sanow*	13	Benjamin Lapidés*	20
Jean Spencer	1	Gidda Strauss*	6	Stanley Clark*	16	Simon Pogal*	21
Morris Weinstein*	2	Morris Suskind*	7	Morris Gurian*	17	Jacob Rubenstein*	21
Etta Levinson*	4	Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8	Paul Israel	18	E. Sarah Maltinsky*	23
Ida Silver*	4	Herman Strauss*	8	Gitla Perkal*	18	Bert Falk*	25
		Dvora Brodie*	9	Samuel Spencer	18		
Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Samuel Goldman	9				
		Daniel Hirsch*	10				
		Miriam Weinberger	12				

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.

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.

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

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.

UPCOMING JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL EVENT

The Jewish Book Festival event with former refusenik, Yosef Mendelevich, who will discuss the book *Unbroken Spirit: A Heroic Story of Faith, Courage and Survival* has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 pm at the JCC. The event is free but reservations are required and space is limited. To make your reservation, go to <http://www.rjbf.org/events/124-yosef-mendelevich>

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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