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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

B U L L E T I N

Editor: Steve Teitel

President: Harris Honickman
Treasurer: Ira Cohen

First Vice-President: Steve Teitel
Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky

Second Vice-President: Leon Metlay

March President's Message

Friends,

Purim is coming. This is perhaps the most quizzical of all our holidays. At once, it is a celebration of courage, survival, feminism, justice, the power of human action as a harbinger of miracles and more. There is a cacophony of overt and hidden themes – many of which appear contradictory. All through the story told in the Book of Esther, one senses the unseen Divine Hand at work, guiding the destiny of the mortal actors – and intervening when necessary.

One cannot avoid observing the echo of Purim themes in the present. There are still voices endorsing Haman's desire to put an end to the Jewish people. They employ the same justification and the same rhetoric that Haman used: *"There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed. And I will weigh out ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the business."*

The contradictory behavior of the Persian king Achashverosh is similar to that of our own Head of State. Both exhibit boorish behavior, demeaning treatment of women, and accompany with and foster corrupt subordinates. That both men show transient – and self-serving – benevolence to Jews, does not efface their corruption.

The ancient rabbis cite the phrase *v'nahafoch hu* in the Megilla of Esther. It roughly translates to "Turning the world upside down" and refers to the reversal of fortunes as Haman's expected ascent and the decreed fall of the Jews were turned into the demise of Haman and his allies with the Jews emerging triumphant.

We join Beth David and Beth Am in our shul for the reading of the Megillah on March 9 at 7:00 PM.

Joseph Yudelson, Aline's father and second father to me, passed away early in February. Joe was an Associate Member. Joe touched and enriched countless lives. He was a great scientist. His many inventions include dry chemistry for film to photograph missiles in Cuba during the crisis in 1962, an easy to use kit for electrophoresis – still used today for hundreds of applications including DNA analysis and testing for antibiotics and vaccines. Just this week, one of the younger members of Joe's lab that he mentored – who he cajoled to take a leave of absence and get a Ph.D – wrote to tell us that he started using a catalyst in his work that Joe developed in 1973. But more than his career, Joe was a dedicated father, grandfather, advisor and friend to so many. His delightful and captivating story telling was legendary and rivals what we hear of Lincoln. Right up to the day before he left us, Joe intently inquired about the lives and welfare of his seven grandchildren.

As I write this, we hear of the passing of our long time and benevolent member, Philip Garver on Friday, February 21. Baruch Dayan HaEmet. Notice of the burial service and shiva will have been sent to members before you receive this.

See you at shul,
Harris Honickman

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MARCH 2020

Sunday	Mar 1		No Service or Breakfast this morning
Friday	Mar 6	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David and Ohel Avraham at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 5:48 PM)
Saturday	Mar 7	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am, Torah: Tetzaveh
Sunday	Mar 8	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast, Discussion
Monday	Mar 9	7:00 PM	Joint Erev Purim Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David
Friday	Mar 13	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 6:57 PM)
Saturday	Mar 14	9:30 AM	Joint Shabbat Morning Service with Temple Beth Am, Torah: Ki Tisa
Sunday	Mar 15	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast, Discussion
Monday	Mar 16	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	Mar 18	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study at BHBI
Friday	Mar 20	6:30 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David and Ohel Avraham at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 7:05 PM)
Saturday	Mar 21	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service and Blessing for the New Month, Torah: Vayakhel/Pekudei
Sunday	Mar 22	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast, Discussion
Friday	Mar 27	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Joint Shabbat Evening Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David at Beth Am (TBK room 103) (light candles 7:13 PM) Shabbat Dinner at Beth Am
Saturday	Mar 28	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service, Torah: Vayikra
Sunday	Mar 29	9:00 AM	Service, Breakfast, Discussion

FRIDAY SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES

BHBI, Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David hold joint Shabbat Evening Services every Friday in the Beth Am Sanctuary (TBK Room 103). Services will be at 6:30 PM, except for the 4th Friday of the month when Services will be at 6:00 PM followed by a vegetarian dinner at 7:00 PM. Contact Ronna Marsh at 473-4317, or ronnamarsh@yahoo.com, by 6:00 PM of that week's Wednesday if you plan to come to the dinner.

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our Torah study session in March will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, at 7:30 pm at BHBI. New participants are welcome at any time! No prior experience required!

TOPS CARDS

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 Ira Cohen at 943-1040 or by e-mail at gouldron@aol.com

CONDOLENCES

We note with great sadness the passing of long time associate member Joseph Yudelson, father of Aline Honickman, and the passing of long time member Philip Garver. Our sympathies go out to the Yudelson, Honickman, and Garver families.

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in memory of Leon's mother Katy Metlay on her 100th birthday
Feb 8 Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her father Stanley Clark
Feb 15 Herb Spencer in honor of his 90th birthday and in memory of his father Samuel Spencer
Feb 22 The Congregation
Feb 29 The Congregation

DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In memory of Jacob Swartz and of friends

Sue Baker

In memory of Irving Gold

Lynn Adams

In memory of Lottie Fink

Jack Fink

In memory of Gertrude Kleinstein and Sherman Kleinstein

Sherris Kleinstein

In memory of Joseph Yudelson

Tamara Strubel

Sue Baker

Ira Coben and Ellen Franke

Steve and Ruth Teitel

In memory of Lea Kron

Tamara Strubel

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. To support BHBI by making purchases with Amazon or Goodshop, 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 them from our web page, BHBI gets a percentage of the purchase price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes! You can also support BHBI by making purchases directly with Amazon Smile. To do so, go to Smile.Amazon.com, sign in as you normally would on Amazon, and select Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel as the non-profit organization that you wish to support. Thereafter, every time you make an Amazon purchase at Smile.Amazon.com, BHBI will receive a portion of the cost of your purchase.

GOODSEARCH.ORG

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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, please have them contact the congregation at BHBIRochester@gmail.com

HAPPY PURIM!

Don't miss Erev Purim services, Monday March 9 at 7:00 PM. This year the service will be held at BHBI, with joint participation of Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David. Bring your groggers and come hear the whole megillah!

EVENTS THIS MONTH IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunday, March 15, 2:00 PM at Temple Beth El

Richard W. Briskin Cantorial Concert: Daniella Risman, lyric soprano and 3rd year cantorial student at the H. L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will perform. The concert is free and open to the public.

Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Louis S. Wolk JCC of Greater Rochester

Talking Tachlies with the Shinshinim: From Canaan to Israel; How Geography Tells the Story

The Israeli map throughout history, from biblical times to the present.

Monday, March 30, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at Nazareth College's Callahan Theater

A Conversation on Anti-Semitism with Abraham H. Foxman

Mr. Foxman, national director emeritus of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), is a published author, and is currently director and chairman of the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required.

To register, go to: http://naz.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6gMFkq47fTBuTCl

ISRAELI NATIONAL ELECTIONS MARCH 2

On Monday, March 2, Israel will have elections for the 23rd Knesset. This will be an unprecedented third round of national elections within the span of just one year, the first having been held on April 9, 2019, and the second on September 17, 2019. In each case the election resulted in a standoff, with neither of the major political blocks succeeding to form a governing coalition of at least 61 Knesset members. It is unclear if this newest round will produce a more stable outcome. The main slates of candidates competing in the election are as follows, listed in the order of their strength in the current Knesset.

Blue and White: The new centrist party, led by former IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz (33 seats).

Likud: Current governing right of center party, led by Benjamin Netanyahu (32 seats).

Joint List: Combined slate of four predominantly Arab parties, led by Ayman Odeh (13 seats).

Labor-Gesher-Meretz: In the April election, the left of center Labor Party joined in a common slate with Gesher, a libertarian-centrist party. In the current election they have now joined in a “marriage of convenience” with the left wing social democratic party Meretz, the goal being to ensure that left wing votes don’t get “wasted” voting for a party that might not make the threshold for winning seats in the Knesset. The slate is led by Labor party head Amir Peretz (10 seats).

Shas: The Sephardic religious party, led by Aryed Deri (9 seats).

Yisrael Beiteinu: The secular nationalist party originally supported by Russian immigrants, led by Avigdor Lieberman. At one point it was thought this party was on the verge of irrelevance, only to see it return to prominence in these recent elections. Lieberman has become the “king maker” as his block has, so far, been vital to forming a governing coalition. Yet in the previous two elections he refused to side with Likud because of Netanyahu’s corruption indictments and Likud’s acquiescence to demands from the religious parties; but he also refused to side with Blue and White because of its refusal to join in a unity government headed by Netanyahu, and because of suggestions that Blue and White might accept support from the Joint List. The unwillingness of Lieberman to support either Netanyahu or Gantz is what has led to the new round of elections (8 seats).

United Torah Judaism: The Ashkenazi religious party, led by Yaakov Litzman (7 seats).

Yamina: A slate consisting of the New Right party, formed by Naftali Bennet and Ayelet Shaked when they broke away from the Jewish Home religious national party, now joined up with the Jewish Home and the National Union parties so as to prevent right wing votes from being wasted on a party that might not meet the electoral threshold; however the slate refused to also join with the extreme right Kahanist party, Otzmah Yehudit. The slate is led by Bennet (7 seats).

What will be the outcome? We will have to wait to see. But as the election results become known, and parties start jockeying to form a governing coalition, March 17 will see the start of Prime Minister Netanyahu trial on charges of corruption. March will be an interesting month for Israeli politics.

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.

Feb 28 - 29	Adar	March 6 - 7	Adar	March 13 - 14	Adar	March 20 - 21	Adar/Nissan
Betty Glaser	4	Jennie Goldstein	11	Edna Astrachan*	19	Ida Sallerson Levine*	25
Anna Ruderman*	4	Robinson*		Sam Malina*	19	Barnet Stern*	26
Hyman Sablowsky*	4	Irving Gold	12	Anna Steinmetz*	19	Lea Kron	27
Emma Sarachan*	4	Eva Jenny Cenzer*	13	Louis Rickler*	20	Harris Priceman*	27
Celia Lapides*	5	Charles Saul Gordon*	13	Harry Aranow*	21	Rebecca Cohen*	28
Dora Newell*	6	Rose Riwkin*	13	Carl Astrachan*	21	Eva Friedman*	28
William Schwartz*	6	Marion Carton Gulack	14	Leila Markus*	21	Sarah Shulsky*	28
Sherman Kleinstein*	9	Charles Ambush*	15	Herman Sarachan*	21	Mollie Wolk*	28
Anna Schiff*	9	Gussie Gillenson	15	Percy Cohen*	22	Karoline Hess*	29
Edith Berkowitz*	10	Bernstein*		Julie Feuerberg	24	Sadie Rose	29
Samuel Goldstein*	10	Irvin Boyar*	15			Sam Wolk*	29
Fanny Tecler Levinson*	10	Stanley Muszynski*	15	March 27 - 28	Nissan	Lena Levi*	1
Max Metlay	10	Abraham Alderman*	16	Morris Sherman*	3	Lester Miller*	1
		Celia Engel*	17	Eli Gerber*	4	Gertrude Swartz	1
Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Muriel Hobel	17	Jack Rodney	4	Benjamin Braz*	2
		Max Levy	17	Gertrude Kleinstein*	5	Dr. Charles Cohen*	2
				Rachael Weinstein*	5		
				Esther Bertman*	8		
				Max Block	8		

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 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

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 at BHBIRochester@gmail.com.

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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hannahrenametlay.wixsite.com/hrmphtography7 Text only: 585-405-3233

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 Harris Honickman at 271-5145. 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 Steve Teitel know. We always appreciate feedback.

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