

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

B U L L E T I N

Editor: Steve Teitel

President: Harris Honickman

First Vice-President: Steve Teitel

Second Vice-President: Leon Metlay

Treasurer: Ira Cohen

Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky

May President's Message

Friends,

These are strange days. In times past, an epidemic was met with bewilderment and fear. In the present, we understand the cause of the disease which reduces the bewilderment but the fear remains – especially for those who are susceptible based on age and underlying physical condition. For some of us, being forced to remain in our home for extended periods of time offers a respite from the obligation to socialize. Indeed, while we never aspired to the life of a hermit, the prospect of extended solitude was never that foreboding.

Despite the contradictory pronouncements of some of our political leaders, the recommendations of medical experts remain the best way to proceed. Maintain social distance, stay in our homes as much as possible, wash hands frequently, avoid touching mouth and eyes. When shopping, avoid touching surfaces, wear a covering over mouth and nose.

Remember how Moses kept telling Pharaoh that he wanted to take the Israelites out to of Egypt so they could worship G-d in the wilderness? After the drama of the plagues and crossing the Sea of Reeds, that worship occurred at Mt. Sinai 50 days after the Exodus, when the Torah was given to the Children of Israel. We celebrate that event with the Festival of Shavuot beginning the evening of Thursday May 28. Right now it appears unlikely that we will be able to have services inside our sanctuary. We will consider whether outside services are possible - weather permitting - and will notify the Congregation later in May.

Meanwhile we are having weekday minyans online every Sunday at 9:00 AM via Zoom. They are going well. We send the link out every week. Please join us.

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 31, at 3:00 PM. If the recommended social distancing does not permit gathering in our building, we may consider a meeting outside or explore the use of Zoom for the meeting. We will keep you informed.

Be safe.

Chag Shavuot Semeach,
Harris Honickman

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Information from the Federation on the COVID-19 crisis can be found at:
<https://www.jewishrochester.org/novelcoronavirusoutbreak-covid-19>

Information from the Federation about community resources, updated weekly, can be found at:
<https://www.jewishrochester.org/communityresources->

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2020

Friday	May 1		Erev Shabbat (light candles 7:54 PM)
Saturday	May 2		Shabbat Morning, Torah: Acharei Mot / Kedoshim
Sunday	May 3	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	May 8		Erev Shabbat (light candles 8:02 PM)
Saturday	May 9		Shabbat Morning, Torah: Emor
Sunday	May 10	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	May 11	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom
Friday	May 15		Erev Shabbat (light candles 8:10 PM)
Saturday	May 16		Shabbat Morning, Torah: Behar / Bechukotai
Sunday	May 17	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Wednesday	May 20	7:30 PM	Small Shul Collaborative Torah Study via Zoom visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	May 22		Erev Shabbat (light candles 8:17 PM)
Saturday	May 23		Shabbat Morning and Blessing for the New Month, Torah: Bamidbar
Sunday	May 24	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Thursday	May 28		Erev Shavuot (light candles 8:22 PM)
Friday	May 29		Shavuot 1st Day Erev Shabbat and Erev Shavuot 2nd Day (light candles 8:23 PM from a pre-existing flame)
Saturday	May 30		Shabbat Morning and Shavuot 2nd Day, Torah: Shavuot
Sunday	May 31	9:00 AM 3:00 PM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link BHBI Annual Membership Meeting

CONRONAVIRUS COVID-19 ALERT

Due to the ongoing coronavirus COVID-19 health emergency, all services and activities at BHBI, and all joint Friday Services at Temple Beth Am, are suspended until further notice. Sunday morning services will be live streamed via Zoom. Visit our website www.BHBIRochester.org for the link.

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our Torah study session in May will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, at 7:30 pm via Zoom. New participants are welcome at any time! No prior experience required! Visit our website www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link.

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

COMMUNITY FILM SCREENING

In honor of Yom Ha'Atzmaout – Israel Independence Day, watch "Sustainable Nation," a documentary about three Israeli innovators working to provide sustainable global water solutions. Watch for FREE any time, from Sunday April 26 through Saturday May 2, at: sustainablenation.com/online-premier

DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In memory of grandfather Samuel Gastel
Jill Clark-Foulkes

In memory of Michael Kron
Tamara Strubel

In memory of Aaron Baker and Gertrude Swartz
Sue Baker

In memory of Minnette Taylor
Lynn Adams

In memory of Evelyn Maimon
Helen Gulack

In memory of Morton Lewis and Rose Dworkis Lewis
Judith Mercer

In memory of Esther and Bernard Klionsky, Inge Schaffer,
Alan Fishman, Annette Garver, Joseph Teitel, Gladys
Glazer, Katy Metlay, Joe Yudelson, and Phil Garver
Jeff Nidetz, Leslie Toker, Peg Toker

In honor of Steve and Leon for setting up and
conducting the Sunday morning service
Ira Coben and Ellen Franke

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

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

SOME THINGS TO DO WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Visit a museum: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

Watch a play at the Royal National Theatre: <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

Watch a performance from The Kennedy Center:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL14hRqd0PELEorMts-pf_WDX6NJahRayP

Read a book, listen to old radio shows, watch a movie, and much more at the National Emergency Library:

<https://blog.archive.org/2020/03/24/announcing-a-national-emergency-library-to-provide-digitized-books-to-students-and-the-public/>

Learn a new language: <https://www.duolingo.com/>

HAPPY SHAVUOT!

We wish you and all of your family and friends a happy and joyful Shavuot!

Do you know all the different names for this Holiday? Shavuot (Festival of Weeks), Chag Hakatzir (Harvest Festival), Yom Habikurim (Day of the First Fruits), Atzeret (Time for Stopping Work / End of the Passover Season), Z'man Matan Torah (Time of the Giving of the Torah).

Shavuot is the third and last of the three pilgrimage festivals (the first two being Sukkot and Passover).

Shavuot is the day when Moses received the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai. For the real story, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I48hr8HhDv0>

Shavuot is the only festival in the Torah with no explicit date specified. We are told to celebrate it after counting 49 days from the second day of Passover.

King David was born and died on Shavuot.

On Shavuot we read the book of Ruth, a convert to Judaism from whom King David was descended.

In Israel, Shavuot is celebrated on kibbutzim with parades of agricultural equipment and other activities reflecting the holiday's significance as the time of the wheat harvest.

On Shavuot the custom is to eat dairy foods. If you are tired of the usual blintzes, why not try these cheese pancakes? (from <https://jamiiegeller.com/recipes/cheese-pancakes/>)

INGREDIENTS

1 pound farmer cheese
3 large eggs
3 tablespoon sour cream
2 teaspoon vanilla sugar
1/2 cup sugar
3 tablespoon potato starch
Oil or nonstick cooking spray, for frying

PREPARATION

In a medium bowl, combine the farmer cheese, eggs, sour cream, sugars, and potato starch. Mix well. Heat oil or cooking spray in a skillet over medium heat. Scoop a ladle of the pancake mixture into the pan. Fry until golden, approximately 1-2 minutes per side.

BHBI 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Sunday, May 31th at 3:00 PM

Please be sure to participate in this year's Annual Membership Meeting, to discuss the state of our Congregation and to vote in our new slate of Officers and Trustees for the year. In order to conduct business it is necessary that we have a quorum of 25% of the membership participating. Any member not participating can give their proxy to a participating member, to vote on their behalf. No person may cast more than two proxy votes in addition to their own, and proxies may not be counted towards the quorum. So please try to participate!

Because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we do not yet know if we will be able to have an in-person meeting in the building. Other options might be an outdoor meeting, or a meeting online via Zoom. We will inform you of the venue for the meeting as the date approaches.

Yahrzeits

With the absence of Shabbat Services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at Sunday morning service we will read the names of our late loved ones whose Yahrzeits occur on the just ended Shabbat or during the following week.

May 1-2	Iyar	May 15-16	Iyar	May 22-23	Iyar/Sivan	May 29-30	Sivan
Harry Cominsky*	11	Samuel Sanow*	22	Shirley B. Dvorkin*	29	Max Atkin*	8
Tessie Yablin*	11	Esther Leah Silverman*	24	Samuel Schwartz*	1	Albert Bernstein*	8
Dr. Murray Cowen*	12	Reuben Cohen	26	Sam Dubin	2	Bessie Eber*	8
David Gross*	13	Annette Garver	26	Nathan Epstein*	2	Max Vogelstein	8
Johanna Schild*	13	Leopold Buchbinder*	27	Bessie Klein*	2	Benjamin Weinrib*	8
		Charles Bertman*	27	Rose Levin*	4	May Cohen*	9
May 8-9	Iyar	Isadore D. Goldberg*	27	Esther Gertrude Schriba*	4	Robert Baker*	10
Haskell Isaac Smith*	15	Harry T. Levinson*	27	Morris Levine*	5	Sarah Osband*	10
Samuel Lederman*	16	Abraham Goldman*	28	Ida Sherman*	5	Jesse Stolnitz*	10
Samuel J. Weisenberg*	16	Arnold Kauffman*	28	Ann Alderman*	6	Harry Strauss*	11
Libby Goldberg*	18					Theresa Mayer Block	12
Samuel Gastel*	21					Minnie Strom*	12
				Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Rose Sallerson	13

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.

THANKS TO OUR AD SPONSORS



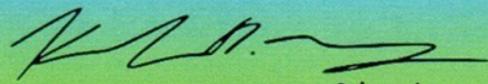
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OFFICE: The synagogue office is checked regularly for mail and messages. The synagogue phone is 244-2060. For urgent issues, call Steve Teitel at 473-5741 or Harris Honickman at 271-5145. You can also e-mail us at BHBIRochester@gmail.com

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.

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 Steve Teitel at: BHBIRochester@gmail.com

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