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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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July's Vice President's Message

Friends,

The June President's message concerned the recent fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza strip. The focus of the message was to criticize the New York Times for its supposed biased reporting. I urge you to read the two articles^{1,2} that were cited, you might come away with a different impression.

To focus on the perceived biases of the NY Times is a distraction from the more serious picture. Our congregational President has invited others to express their views, so I will express mine. The recent conflict between Israel and Hamas was horrific. Thousands of rockets were fired indiscriminately at Israel, resulting in a dozen civilian deaths, including two children, several foreign workers, and two Israeli Arab citizens. Thousands more were traumatized. Precision-targeted counter attacks on Gaza nevertheless resulted in a death toll 20 times greater, including numerous civilians, among them reportedly 66 children. Unfortunately this was only the latest in a series of such exchanges (2008, 2012, 2014, 2019, and now 2021). Indeed, the Israeli euphemism for such periodic exchanges of fire with Gaza is "mowing the grass."

One should ask why this continues. Certainly a primary cause is Hamas' stated dedication to Israel's destruction. However, as Paul Harvey used to say, here is the *rest of the story* (or at least a part of it). The source of much of Hamas' funding in recent years has been suitcases of money from Qatar, being delivered to Gaza with the full cooperation of the Israeli government. Why does Israel do this? The short answer is that it is intended to prevent economic collapse, and resulting instability, in Gaza. But to quote from a Jerusalem Post article³ of March 12, 2019, "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended Israel's regular allowing of Qatari funds to be transferred into Gaza, saying it is part of a broader strategy to keep Hamas and the Palestinian Authority separate, a source in Monday's Likud faction meeting said. . . . The prime minister also said that, 'whoever is against a Palestinian state should be for' transferring the funds to Gaza, because maintaining a separation between the PA in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza helps prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state." A May 16, 2021 column⁴ in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reports, "In an interview with the Ynet website on May 5, 2019, a close associate of the prime minister, Maj. Gen. (res.) Gershon Hacoen, said that 'the truth must be stated: Netanyahu's strategy is to prevent a two-state option, so he has made Hamas his closest partner. Overtly, Hamas is the enemy. Covertly, it's an ally.'"

In short, the continuing cycle of violence between Israel and Hamas has been due not just to the intransience of Hamas, it has also been a consequence of the policy of the Israeli government to preserve the status quo rather than make efforts to resolve the broader conflict. One often hears from the Israeli side that there is "no partner for peace." But one should remember that the relative quiet that has prevailed in the West Bank for the last many years is in large part due to the close cooperation between the security forces of the governing Palestinian Authority (PA) and their Israeli counterparts. I have sometimes heard it claimed that this cooperation exists only for the cynical purposes of the PA.

(continued on page 3)

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JULY 2021

Friday	July 2	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:35 PM)
Saturday	July 3	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Pinchas
Sunday	July 4	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	July 9	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:33 PM)
Saturday	July 10	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Matot/Massei
Sunday	July 11	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	July 12	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom
Friday	July 16	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:29 PM)
Saturday	July 17	10:00 AM 8:45 PM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Devarim Tisha B'Av fast begins
Sunday	July 18	9:00 AM	Tisha B'Av Morning Service with Temples Beth Am and Beth David at BHBI
Friday	July 23	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am and Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:23 PM)
Saturday	July 24	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Va'etchanan
Sunday	July 25	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	July 30	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:16 PM)
Saturday	July 31	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Ekev

SERVICES

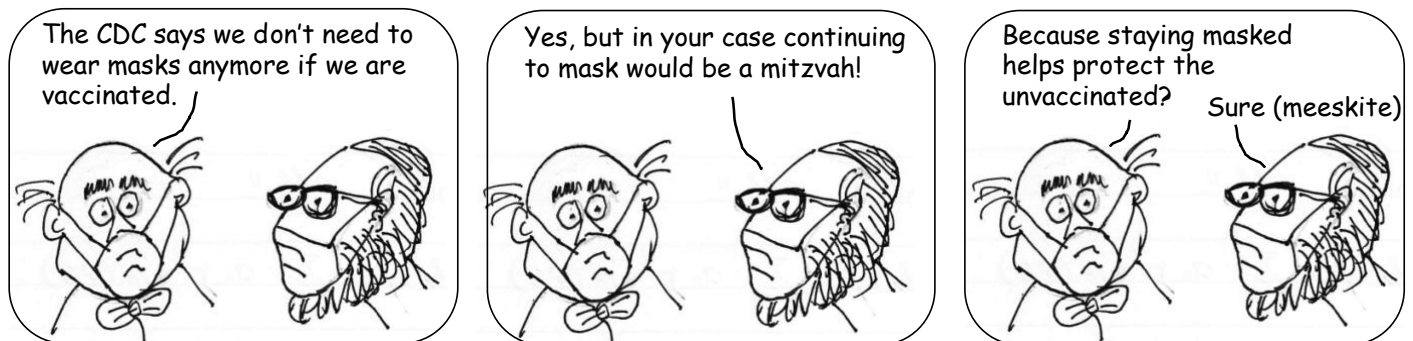
BHBI has resumed in-person Shabbat Morning Services, each Saturday at 10 AM. We meet indoors in our sanctuary, where we have six HEPA air filtering units running. Masks are required, KN95 masks available, and seating is socially distanced. If you feel comfortable to attend, we would love to welcome you back to services! Sunday morning services continue on Zoom at 9:00 AM, see the shul website for the Zoom link.

Temple Beth Am has Shabbat Evening Services every Friday on Zoom. If you wish to join, please connect to the service before the start of Shabbat and set your computer not to go into sleep mode. The Beth Am Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6337493851>

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our monthly Torah study session is temporarily suspended.

Life in our Times



(Vice President's message continued)

Whatever the reasons, one should not denigrate the fact that this cooperation has saved countless Israeli lives.

The goal of the Biden administration to channel funding for the reconstruction of Gaza through the PA, as a means to strengthen the PA and weaken Hamas, is therefore a step in the right direction. One can only hope that the new Israeli government will act similarly to strengthen the PA. A more in-depth discussion of this issue can be found in a recent column⁵ by the Israel Policy Forum, which I urge you to read, and also a more recent article⁶ in the online journal Fathom.

For those interested in understanding the triggers that set off the recent round of violence, I suggest this analysis⁷ by the Israel Policy Forum and this article⁸ from the NY Times.

This month on July 17/18 we will observe Tisha B'Av, when we mourn for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem; the first time by the Babylonians, the second time by the Romans. The Rabbis of the Talmud attributed⁹ the destruction of the First Temple to the high rate of idolatry, sexual immorality and bloodshed. They attributed⁹ the destruction of the Second Temple to *sinat chinam* (causeless hatred). Rather than place the blame on the greater strength of the Babylonian and Roman armies and on the evil intents of those empires, the Rabbis turned inwards, to consider how the behavior of the people led G-d to bring such calamities. While I am not a fan of second guessing G-d's intentions, we would similarly be wise not to reserve all our attention and wrath for our implacable enemies, be they Hamas or be they the NY Times. We should rather look for ways that both the Israeli government, and we advocating in the US, can work towards peace and a better future for both Israel and its neighbors.

See you at shul,
Steve

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/21/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-war-ceasefire.html>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/16/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-hamas-civilian-casualties.html>
3. <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Netanyahu-Money-to-Hamas-part-of-strategy-to-keep-Palestinians-divided-583082>
4. <https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-netanyahu-needs-a-strong-hamas-1.9814181>
5. <https://israelpolicyforum.org/2021/05/27/the-other-half-of-the-equation-to-sidelining-hamas/>
6. <https://fathomjournal.org/gazan-futures-five-ways-israel-egypt-and-the-us-can-strengthen-the-palestinian-authority-and-facilitate-its-return-to-gaza/>
7. <https://israelpolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Gottesman.Jerusalem.GazaIPF.May2021.pdf>
8. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/15/world/middleeast/israel-palestinian-gaza-war.html>
9. <https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/85886.1?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en>
<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/06/nine-lessons-israel-following-gaza-operation>

Tisha B'Av

Tisha B'Av begins at sundown, Saturday, July 17, with the fast starting at 8:45 pm. There will be a Tisha B'Av morning service, held jointly with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David on Sunday, July 18, at 9:00 am. The service will be held in-person at BHBI. Face masks will be available and are required.



The National Council of Jewish Women reminds you to register to vote!

Below is a link to obtain an absentee ballot the November 2, 2021 elections. Whether you choose **Online Absentee Ballot Application** or **Printable Absentee Ballot Application**, check “Temporary illness or physical disability.” The NYS Legislature extended “no excuse absentee voting” until December 31, 2021.

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-absentee>

For further information go to <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections>

Rochester Jewish Film Festival – August 1 to 8

The annual JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival will take place this year from Sunday August 1 to Sunday August 8.

The festival will consist of 20 films to watch as virtual screenings on your home device. Of these 20 films, 7 selected films will also be presented at in-person screenings at one of the following four venues: the JCC Hart Theater, the Dawn Lipson Canalside Stage at the JCC outdoors, a pop-up drive-in at the JCC parking lot, and at the Eastman Museum's Dryden Theater.

You may either buy tickets to individual virtual films, or a virtual festival pass for all. Tickets for the in-person showings must be purchased in advance. It is recommended that you purchased in-person tickets early due to limited seating capacity.

For further information and to purchase tickets, go to: <https://rjff2021.eventive.org/welcome>

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In honor of the naming of Isabelle, daughter of Maxine
and Ben St. Onge, sister of Penelope
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of daughter Nelli Ahuva Metlay
Nina Klionsky and Leon Metlay

In honor of Isabelle St. Onge
Ira Cohen and Ellen Franke

In memory of Morry Baker, Bessie Baker,
and Robert Baker
Sue Baker

In memory of grandmother Bessie Gastel
Jill Clark-Foulkes

In memory of father Joseph Teitel
Steve and Ruth Teitel

In memory Reuben Cohen
Ira Cohen and Ellen Franke

In memory of Sheila Kleinstein
Sherris Kleinstein

In memory of Gad Strubel
Tamara Strubel

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.

July 2-3	Tamuz	July 9-10	Av	July 16-17	Av	July 30-31	Av
Max Goodman*	23	Sidney Gold	1	Anna Berman*	8	Sarah Applebaum Gastel*	22
David Gordon*	23	Louis Schiff*	1	George Cohen*	8	Israel Osband*	22
Nelli Ahuva Metlay*	24	Benjamin Bobb	2	William Aaron Bernstein*	9	Bessie Gastel*	25
Ira Edward Potter*	24	Joseph Greenbaum*	2	David Titof	9	Samuel Immanuel Wechsler*	25
Inge Schaffer	24	Moses Berkowitz*	3	Janet Grable	11	Abraham Alkus*	26
Thelma Ring Smith*	25	Kathy Shur	5	Haim Menachem Levy	12	Rose T. Cohen	26
Irwin Bertman*	26	Julian Sugarman	7	Hyman Silverman*	12	Jacob Osband*	26
Oscar Hart	27			Frank Carper*	13	Joseph Teitel	26
Mark Rose	27	July 23-24	Av	Sarah R. Spector*	13	Reuben Klein*	27
Abraham Schriba*	27	Morris Shimberg*	15			Esther Marker*	27
Hyman Tanenbaum*	28	Abraham Heyman*	17			Sarah Weisenberg*	28
Celia Silverstein*	29	Phillip Boyarsky*	18				
		Jennie Braime*	20				
		Abraham I. Spector*	20				
		Maurice Ohl*	21				

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 Leon Metlay at BHBIRochester@gmail.com.

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.

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

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

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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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