

BHBIRochester.org  
Published Monthly  
Vol 57/No. 6  
Adar - Nissan 5783  
March 2023

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

# BULLETIN

Editor: Steve Teitel

*President: Steve Teitel*  
*Treasurer: Ira Cohen*

*First Vice-President: Leon Metlay*  
*Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky*

*Second Vice-President: Harris Honickman*

## **March's President's Message**

Friends,

ChatGPT is on break this month, so it is my turn again. I am having a hard time deciding whether to write about the usual mundane things, or to write about the things that are really on my mind. So I'll do both. As for the mundane: Our evening Purim service will be held jointly with Temple Beth Am on Monday, March 6, at 6pm in the "Beit Café" of Temple Beth El (on the same floor as the main sanctuary). Grab your grogger, put on your costume, and let Haman know what you think of him! Looking further down the road, on April 20, at 7:30 pm in the Kodak Hall of Eastman Theater, there will be a special program in honor of Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. See the ad on page 2 of this bulletin for further details.

As for the things on my mind: The world is a mess. At home in the US, we have come through a dark period that I fear is not yet over. Political partisanship is at a high, antisemitism is on the rise, and the specter of Him-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named is still ever present. I recently finished reading *American Midnight* by Adam Hochschild, a book that gives a vivid history of the country during the years 1917-21, when Woodrow Wilson was President. You might be surprised to learn that this was a period when political repression, media censorship, and anti-immigrant, anti-socialist sentiments were at a frenzy. Hochschild makes one realize that what we see today are the echoes of an even viler past. Perhaps that gives some faint hope – things are not as bad as they were. Or perhaps this is an omen that things can still get much worse?

In Israel, the government is aggressively pushing to enact a series of judicial "reforms," that have four main components: (i) The committee that appoints new judges will be reconfigured so that the governing coalition appoints the majority of its members, and so has complete control over judicial appointments; (ii) The Supreme Court will be prohibited from exercising judicial review of "Basic Laws" passed by the Knesset. Basic Laws have generally been those guaranteeing protection of personal liberties, or outlining the structure of the government, in accordance with Israel's Declaration of Independence (Israel has no formal Constitution). Now a Basic Law will be anything the Knesset decides to label as one; (iii) The Knesset, by a simple majority, will be able to overturn any decision of the Supreme Court; (iv) Legal advisers to government ministries will be political appointees, rather than independent authorities overseen by the Justice Ministry. Even if you believe that the Israeli Supreme Court has at times overreached, or that representation among judges must be diversified, these reforms should horrify you. In essence they give the governing coalition, no matter how small their majority, the ability to enact *any* law they wish, without any checks or pathway to appeal. Democracy will be in name only.

How should we respond to such events in general? And, in particular, how do we as Jews relate to the resurrection of political sovereignty in our ancestral homeland? We all have differing personal and political philosophies. In these messages I try to avoid partisan politics. So, I will end with a quote from the [writings](#) of Rav Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of British Mandatory Palestine, "Love for all must fill our heart. The love of all beings precedes everything else . . . The highest level of loving all creatures is the love for people, which must extend to the entirety of humanity, regardless of all differences of opinion and religion, or those of race and climate . . . Only when the soul is enriched by the love of all creatures and all humanity, can the love of one's own nation be elevated to its lofty station and attain greatness, both in spirit and in practice." When a leader argues for the supremacy of one people over another, or stokes divisiveness though appeals to fear, that is the tip off that this is a leader not to be followed.

Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 12, at 2 am. But you can wait until morning to set your clocks ahead!

See you at shul,  
*Steve Teitel*

## **SHABBAT SERVICES**

**BHBI** has 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. All attendees must be vaccinated and wearing a surgical, KN95 or N95 face mask at all times. KN95 masks are available in the sanctuary for those who need. Seating is socially distanced. 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** on Fridays at 6 PM. Services are in-person at Temple Beth El, usually in the TBE Chapel, and live-streamed on Zoom. For the Zoom link and other details, visit the Beth Am website: <https://bethamrochester.org/>

**BHBI Website: [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://www.BHBIRochester.org)**

## BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MARCH 2023

Friday	March 3	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am at Temple Beth El (TBE chapel) and on Zoom – see page 1 for further information (light candles 5:44 PM)
Saturday	March 4	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Tetzaveh
Sunday	March 5	9:00 AM 1:00 PM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link Community Purim Celebration at the JCC
Monday	March 6	6:00 PM	Joint Erev Purim Service with Temple Beth Am, at Temple Beth El in the Beit Cafe
Friday	March 10	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am at Temple Beth El (TBE chapel) and on Zoom – see page 1 for further information (light candles 5:52 PM)
Saturday	March 11	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Ki Tisa
Sunday	March 12	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Monday	March 13	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday	March 17	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am at Temple Beth El (TBE chapel) and on Zoom – see page 1 for further information (light candles 7:01 PM)
Saturday	March 18	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayak'hel-Pekudei
Sunday	March 19	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	March 24	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am at Temple Beth El (TBE chapel) and on Zoom – see page 1 for further information (light candles 7:09 PM)
Saturday	March 25	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayikra
Sunday	March 26	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	March 31	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am at Temple Beth El (TBE chapel) and on Zoom – see page 1 for further information (light candles 7:17 PM)

## DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

*In memory of Paul Israel*  
Rose Israel

*In memory of Bessie Gold*  
Lyn and Norm Adams

*In memory of Dvora Brodie*  
Dave Rogachefsky

*In memory of Lottie Fink*  
Jack Fink

*In memory of Phil Garver*  
Michael Garver

*In memory of Jack Glazer*  
Steve and Ruth Teitel

*In memory of Joseph Yudelson*  
Aline and Harris Honickman

*In honor of the birth of Miriam Cvitkovich*  
Ira Cohen and Ellen Franke

*In memory of Max Metlay*  
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

**The**  
**Purim Games:**  
**A Royally Fun Event**

**Sunday, March 5th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center**  
1200 Edgewood Avenue | Rochester, NY | Gymnasium

**Carnival Games • DJ • Photobooth • Crafts**  
**Hamantaschen • And so much more...**

**ISRAEL AT 75**

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION - A COMMUNITY CONCERT FOR ISRAEL'S 75TH BIRTHDAY**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 | 7:30 PM**  
**KODAK HALL AT EASTMAN THEATRE**  
TICKETS: \$36 & \$18 | STUDENTS FREE WITH A VALID STUDENT ID

**TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester RPO

## 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.

Mar 3-4	Adar	Mar 10-11	Adar	Mar 17-18	Adar/Nissan	Mar 24-25	Nissan
Jennie Goldstein Robinson*	11	Edna Astrachan*	19	Ida Sallerson Levine*	25	Morris Sherman*	3
Irving Gold	12	Sam Malina*	19	Barnet Stern*	26	Eli Gerber*	4
Eva Jenny Censer*	13	Anna Steinmetz*	19	Lea Kron	27	Jack Rodney	4
Charles Saul Gordon*	13	Louis Rickler*	20	Harris Priceman*	27	Gertrude Kleinstein*	5
Rose Riwkin*	13	Harry Aranow*	21	Rebecca Cohen*	28	Rachael Weinstein*	5
Marion Carton Gulack	14	Carl Astrachan*	21	Eva Friedman*	28	Esther Bertman*	8
Charles Ambush*	15	Leila Markus*	21	Sarah Shulsky*	28	Max Block	8
Gussie Gillenson Bernstein*	15	Herman Sarachan*	21	Mollie Wolk*	28		
Irvin Boyar*	15	Percy Cohen*	22	Karoline Hess*	29	Mar 31-Apr 1	Nissan
Stanley Muszynski*	15	Sherris Kleinstein	24	Sadie Rose	29	Seymour Ouzer*	10
Abraham Alderman*	16	Julie Feuerberg	24	Sam Wolk*	29	Charles Levy	11
Celia Engel*	17			Lena Levi*	1	Morris Lipman*	11
Muriel Hobel*	17			Lester Miller*	1	Helen Neiman Goldman*	14
Max Levy	17			Gertrude Swartz	1	Sylvia Kowal	14
		*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Benjamin Braz*	2	Harry Toker	14
				Dr. Charles Cohen*	2	Leo Buchbinder*	15
						Michael Kron	15
						Sol Levin*	15
						Rose Jossem*	16
						Judith Potter*	16

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](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com).

## CEMETERY PLOTS

Did you know that BHBI has designated sections at Stone Road, Britton Road and Mt. Hope Cemeteries and that we sell cemetery plots? If you would like more information, contact Steve Teitel at [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com).

## TOPS CARDS

Remember, *TOPS* Gift Cards are 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](mailto:gouldron@aol.com)

## THANK YOU TO OUR FEBRUARY KIDDUSH SPONSOR

David Rogachefsky in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of his mother, Tamar, Z"L

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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](mailto: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 – *kiddushim, which were suspended due to COVID, are now being resumed on a once a month basis on the 2nd Shabbat of each month.*

**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](http://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](mailto:BHBIRochester@gmail.com)

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