

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

Editor: Steve Teitel

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Treasurer: Ira Cohen

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April's President's Message

Friends,

Each week at Shabbat Services we read the Prayer for the State of Israel. With all the political troubles happening lately in Israel, there has been a [movement](#) in some congregations to either do away with saying that prayer, or to substitute it with one that expresses the worries and concerns arising from the direction the current Israeli government is taking. I am not a proponent of this movement. To me, this prayer is more important now than ever. In our prayer we ask G-d, with reference to the State of Israel, to “Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel.” Never before have the leaders of Israel been in greater need of divine light, truth, and good counsel, because they are currently leading Israel on a path to destruction. The prayer continues, “Strengthen the hands of those who defend our Holy Land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph.” One might be tempted to think of this strictly in terms of military defense. I prefer to think of the *defenders of Israel*, not just as the soldiers of the IDF, but as all who work to keep Israel as the country that was envisioned in its [Declaration of Independence](#), “it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture.” This means all of us. The prayer ends, “Bless the land with peace, and its inhabitants with lasting joy,” -- all its inhabitants. To that I willingly say *Amen*.

As I indicated in my message last month, the current Israeli government is acting to destroy democracy in the country. Israel does not enjoy the many checks and balances on government that we have in the US. Israel lacks a formal constitution. Israel has a parliamentary system, which essentially means the executive and legislative branches are the same; there are no presidential vetoes as the Prime Minister controls the governing coalition in the legislature. Israel has a single house of the legislature, the Knesset, not as in the US where two separate houses must both agree to pass a law. Elections for the Knesset are national elections where people vote for a single party slate, not as in the US where people vote for local representatives who then need to work together to balance differing local interests. In Israel, the sole check and balance on the actions of the Knesset is the judicial system, and in particular the Supreme Court. The current government is seeking to pass legislation that will allow the Knesset to overturn *any* decision of the Supreme Court by mere majority vote. In short, the Knesset will be able to pass and enforce any law the majority coalition wishes. There are some who argue that democracy will remain; the people can always vote out the government at the next election. But a government that enjoys total power will seek to maintain its power. It can tweak election laws to its advantage, and it can exert influence over the media to present a propagandized perspective to its citizens (the [Communications Minister](#) has already begun working on this latter strategy). This is the path that has been taken by countries such as Turkey, Hungary, and Poland. To anyone who thinks this could not happen in Israel, just consider what is going on in our own country. (continued on page 3)

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

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – APRIL 2023

Saturday	April 1	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Tzav
Sunday	April 2	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Wednesday	April 5	--	Erev Pesach 1 st Day, enjoy your seder! (light candles 7:23 PM)
Thursday	April 6	9:30 AM --	Joint Pesach 1 st Day Service with Temple Beth Am, at BHBI Erev Pesach 2 nd Day, enjoy your seder! (light candles after 8:26 PM)
Friday	April 7	9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Joint Pesach 2 nd Day Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth El at Beth El Erev Shabbat Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth El at Beth El (light candles 7:25 PM)
Saturday	April 8	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Chol Hamoed Pesach
Sunday	April 9	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	April 10	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting on Zoom
Tuesday	April 11	--	Erev Pesach 7 th Day (light candles 7:30 PM)
Wednesday	April 12	9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Joint Pesach 7 th Day Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth El at Beth El Erev Pesach 8 th Day Service with Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth El at Beth El, with evening Yizkor (light candles after 8:33 PM)
Thursday	April 13	9:30 AM 8:34 PM	Joint Pesach 8 th Day Service and Yizkor with Temple Beth Am at BHBI Pesach ends. Wait until 9:15 PM before using previously sold chametz.
Friday	April 14	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 7:34 PM)
Saturday	April 15	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Shemini Kiddush luncheon following service
Sunday	April 16	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	April 21	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 7:42 PM)
Saturday	April 22	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Tazria-Metzora
Sunday	April 23	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	April 28	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 7:50 PM)
Saturday	April 29	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Acharei-Kedoshim
Sunday	April 30	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link

THANK YOU TO OUR MARCH KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Tamara Strubel in memory of her mother, Lea Kron, Z"l

DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In memory of Lea Kron
Tamara Strubel

In memory of Harry Aronow
Eileen Kovel

In memory of Minnette Taylor
Linda and Norm Abrams

In memory of Marian Gulack
Steve and Helen Gulak

In memory of Max Block
Cathy Block

This is not a matter of left-wing vs right-wing, nor secular vs religious. It transcends differences in political viewpoint. This is a matter of democracy vs autocracy. This is why there has been an unprecedented taking to the streets of [hundreds of thousands](#) of ordinary Israelis protesting each week (now in its 12th week). These judicial reforms have been opposed by [former heads of the Mossad](#), [the Shin Bet](#), [security chiefs](#), and [national security advisers](#); top [Israeli economists](#), [Israeli Nobel Prize winners](#), [Israeli academics](#) and [university heads](#). They have been opposed by [reservists in the IDF](#), including those in elite units such as pilots, paratroopers, intelligence, and cyber security, who have threatened not to report for duty. Yet the judicial legislation has been pushed forward, with the goal of being competed before Passover, by a Prime Minister who is willing to risk the security and prosperity of the country for the sake of protecting himself against the charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust for which he is currently standing trial. The situation was so grave that the current Chief of the IDF, Herzi Halevi, the Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, and the head of the Shin Bet (the internal security service), Ronen Bar, [warned Netanyahu](#) about the impending security dangers if the legislation moved forward. When Gallant came out publically calling for a pause in the legislative efforts, [Netanyahu fired](#) him. The resulting spontaneous [eruption of protests](#), an impending strike by the national labor organization [Histadrut](#) which shut down departures at Ben Gurion airport, the announcement of a shut down by the [heads of Israel's research universities](#), and other strikes and protests, finally persuaded Netanyahu last Monday to announce a [pause](#) in his judicial "reform" efforts until after the holidays. In order to get him to agree to this pause, Netanyahu had to promise his Minister of National Security Ben-Gvir, the [Kahanist](#) admirer of [Baruch Goldstein](#) and who was [exempted from service](#) in the army because of his extremist views, that he would become head of a newly constituted [National Guard](#). What happens next? Stay tuned. If any of you feel I have breached my conviction to steer clear of politics in this Bulletin, I will follow the policy of my predecessor and offer this space next month to anyone who wishes to express a different point of view.

Meanwhile, back on the home front, Passover will begin this month, with the first seder on Wednesday, April 5. You should have all received from me by email a form to sell your chametz before the holiday. The form is also posted on the shul website. If you wish to make use of this form, you must sign it and get it to the shul, either by mail or by scanning and sending by email, by 5 pm Monday April 3. First day morning service, Thursday April 6, and eighth day morning service with yizkor, Thursday April 13, will be held jointly with Temple Beth Am at BHBI. Unlike previously, Temple Beth David has decided not to join us this year, and services hosted by Temple Beth Am will take place jointly with Temple Beth El at Beth El. See the calendar on page 2 for details.

And speaking of Israel, this month will also see several community wide events. There will be a community concert in honor of Israel's 75 birthday on Thursday, April 20, at 7:30 pm at the Eastman Theater. On Monday, April 24th at 7 – 8:30 pm there will be a Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) ceremony at the JCC. And on Wednesday, April 26th at 5:50 – 7:30 pm there will be a Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) celebration at the JCC. See the following page for further information about registration and tickets.

See you at shul,
Steve Teitel

We wish you a happy and kosher Passover!!!

Life in Our Times



EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

A poster for Israel's 75th birthday celebration. The background is a close-up of hands holding a lit menorah. The text is in blue and black. A large '75' is stylized with a dotted pattern. Logos for Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and RPO are at the bottom right.

**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**



YOM HAZIKARON
Israel's Memorial Day
Monday, April 24, 2023
7:00–8:30PM

Louis S. Wolk JCC
1200 Edgewood Avenue | Rochester, NY

A Salute to Israel's Fallen Soldiers
and Victims of Terrorism

This event is free but registration
is required.

[Click Here to Register](#)

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
Israel's Independence Day
Celebrating Israel @ 75!
Wednesday, April 26, 2023
5:30–7:30PM

Louis S. Wolk JCC
1200 Edgewood Avenue | Rochester, NY

- “Tour of Israel” through fun activity stations
- Music, Dancing, Photobooth and much more
- Drop off you donation of pre-packaged, nut-free snacks for the Brighton Food Cupboard.

Advanced registration is required and is \$18 per family.

[Click Here to Register](#)

For more information on these programs, please contact Gal DiMambro at gdimambro@jewishrochester.org.

Yom HaShoah Ceremony, Monday, April 17th, 7:00 pm at the JCC, commemorating 80 years since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Speaker, Prof. Michael Dobkowski, Chair of Holocaust Studies at Hobart and William Smith College. Registration is required, [click to register](#).

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 31-April 1	Nissan	April 7-8	Nissan	April 14-15	Nissan	April 21-21	Iyar
Seymour Ouzer*	10	Louis Cohen*	18	Simon Finkelman	24	Louis Goldberg*	1
Charles Levy	11	David Morris*	20	Louis Priceman*	25	Louis Goldman*	3
Morris Lipman*	11	Jacob Weinrib*	20	Dorothy Riwkin*	25	Beverly Honickman	4
Helen Neiman Goldman*	14	Beatrice Goldstein*	21	Samuel B. Spiller*	25	Hyman Goldberg*	6
Sylvia Kowal	14	Benjamin Ritter	21	Arthur Weinberger	26	Morton Lewis	6
Harry Toker	14	Yetta Levine*	22	Alexander Greenbaum*	27	Harry Gordon*	7
Leo Buchbinder*	15	Evelyn Maimon	23	Esther Gurian*	27	Abraham Mosheh Malina*	7
Michael Kron	15			Ethel L. Goldstein*	28		
Sol Levin*	15			Rose Dworkis Lewis	28	April 28-Apr 29	Iyar
Rose Jossem*	16	*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Hyman Rothschild*	29	Harry Cominsky*	11
Judith Potter*	16			Karen Schulman	30	Tessie Yablin*	11
						Dr. Murray Cowen*	12
						David Gross*	13
						Johanna Schild*	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 Leon Metlay at 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.

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

PAULA BOBB IN CONERT

BHBI's own Paula Bobb will play Bartok and other composers on the toy piano, while Cheryl Johnson will tap dance to Morton Gould's Tap Dance Concerto, at a concert at the Hochstein Performance Hall on Friday, April 14, 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 each, \$20 family maximum.

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hannahrenametlay@gmail.com

hannahrenametlay.wixsite.com/hrmphotography7

Call only: 585-286-2560
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 – *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

WANT TO GET YOUR BULLETIN HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS? Consider having us e-mail it to you! Contact Steve Teitel at: BHBIRochester@gmail.com

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