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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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August's President's Message

Friends,

It has been a while since I updated you on the ongoing situation in Israel. This past week the Knesset enacted into law the first of a series of bills intended to weaken the power of the judicial system, in particular the Supreme Court. To those who [support](#) these measures, they are intended to shift power from unelected judges to elected political representatives, and to break the power of entrenched elites. To those who [oppose](#) these measures, they claim they will eliminate the power of the courts to serve as a check on the actions of the executive and legislative branches, transfer all power to the governing coalition, and so threaten the personal freedoms and minority rights expected in a democracy. The bill that was enacted eliminates the “[Reasonableness Doctrine](#),” by which the Supreme Court can review, and block, administrative decisions and appointments made by elected officials that are judged to be “unreasonable in the extreme.” The Reasonableness Doctrine does not apply to legislative actions. Examples of its use include a 2007 ruling requiring the government to fortify all (rather than only some) school classrooms in the Gaza border region, and a 2014 ruling against a municipal council's decision not to build a mikveh for its religious population. But it is ironic that two of the most contentious uses of Reasonableness involved the same Israeli politician, Aryeh Deri, leader of the Sephardi religious party Shas. In a recent case from last January, the Supreme Court ruled 10-1 against the current right-wing Netanyahu government to require the firing of Interior Minister and Health Minister Deri, due to Deri's prior criminal convictions and his commitment to quit politics as part of a plea bargain for tax fraud in 2022. One of the earliest cases was in 1993, when the Supreme Court invoked Reasonableness against the left-wing Rabin government, requiring Rabin to immediately fire Interior Minister Deri, once it was known that Deri was about to be indicted (later convicted) on charges of bribery. Rabin had been counting on the 6 Knesset seats from Shas to support passage of the Oslo Accords, and so had tried to delay firing Deri until after the indictment was filed (and after the Oslo Accords were approved). With Deri fired, Shas left Rabin's coalition leaving Rabin with only 56 seats in his coalition (61 is required for a majority). The Oslo Accords were ultimately passed when political horse trading caused three members of the opposition to join Rabin's coalition, and the 5 votes from Arab parties outside the coalition gave their support. You may read more [here](#).

Passage of the bill eliminating the Reasonableness Doctrine sparked massive [protests](#) throughout Israel. A recent [poll](#) found that 28% of Israelis are considering to leave the country. A WhatsApp group of medical workers seeking advice on [relocation](#) abroad attracted 3,000 new members. Most concerning has been the increasing number (now more than 10,000) of [reservists](#) in the Israeli Defense Forces, particularly in key positions such as Air Force pilots, cyber intelligence, and elite commando units, who have announced that they will no longer show up for voluntary training and duty, thus threatening combat readiness. The [Supreme Court](#) announced

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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 – AUGUST 2023

Friday	Aug 4	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat Service with Temple Beth Am at Beth El (TBE chapel) and on Zoom – see page 1 for further information (light candles 8:10 PM)
Saturday	Aug 5	9:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Eikev Please note the special time for today only.
Sunday	Aug 6	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	Aug 11	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 8:01 PM)
Saturday	Aug 12	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Re'eh Kiddish luncheon follows service
Sunday	Aug 13	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	Aug 14	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday	Aug 18	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	Aug 19	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Shoftim
Sunday	Aug 20	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	Aug 25	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 7:39 PM)
Saturday	Aug 26	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Ke Teitzei
Sunday	Aug 27	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link

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Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of her uncle Irwin Bertman

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In memory of Bessie Gastel
Jill Clark-Foulkes

In memory of Oscar Hart
Helen and Steve Gulack

In memory of Michael Malka
Marco Malka y Negri

President's message continued

that it will hear petitions against the Reasonableness elimination law in September. The Knesset is now on break until October. As to what we might expect next, you can read [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). You can find up-to-date information in English language Israeli media such as [Times of Israel](#), [Jerusalem Post](#), [Ynet](#) (Yedioth Ahronoth), [Haaretz](#), and [Israel HaYom](#).

Back to Rochester . . . as of my writing this message, there has been no decision concerning if/when we will have our annual summer picnic. Please watch for an email message from me with further information once this has been decided.

See you at shul,
Steve Teitel

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.

Aug 4 - 5	Av	Aug 11 - 12	Av	Aug 18 - 19	Elul	Aug 25 - 26	Elul
Phillip Boyarsky*	18	Bessie Gastel*	25	Eva Lederman*	2	Fran Dubin Gulack	10
Jennie Braime*	20	Samuel Immanuel Wechsler*	25	Albert Joffe*	4	David Nidetz	12
Abraham I. Spector*	20	Abraham Alkus*	26	Harold Krinsky*	4	Anna Zakofsky*	12
Maurice Ohl*	21	Rose T. Cohen	26	Ethel Strom*	4	Morris Mittelman*	13
Sarah Applebaum Gastel*	22	Jacob Osband*	26	Gladys Glazer	5	Sylvia Album*	14
Israel Osband*	22	Joseph Teitel	26	Judith Rodney	5	Isidor Hess*	14
		Reuben Klein*	27	Tanya Yudelson	5	Frumeh Hinensky*	14
		Esther Marker*	27	Celia Goodman*	7		
		Sarah Weisenberg*	28	Irving Mack*	8		
		Harry Eber*	30				
		Bernard W. Engel*	30				
		Rose Gordon	30				
*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque							

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 Ira Cohen 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

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, contact Ira Cohen at 943-1040 or by e-mail at gouldron@aol.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 – *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

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