

BHBIRochester.org  
Published Monthly  
Vol 58/No. 4  
Tevet - Shvat 5784  
January 2024

**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*

## **January's President's Message**

Friends,

We had a very nice Chanukah Party last month! The latkes were fresh (out of the box) and the lentil soup was delish. Many thanks to Paula Bobb and Judith Mercer, who helped in the kitchen, and Ami Schmerl, Esther Vogelstein, and Leon Metlay, who helped set up.

This month we celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for Trees. "Tu" stands for the Hebrew letters tet and vav, which together have the numerical value of  $9 + 6 = 15$ , as the holiday occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shvat. But the date of this holiday gives an example of one of the disputes between the school of Hillel and the school of Shammai. It is Hillel who ruled the holiday should be on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shvat, while Shammai claimed it should be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Shvat. The source of the dispute had to do with determining the time that trees start to live off the water of the new year, as opposed to the water of the previous year. It was accepted (don't ask me why) that the new water takes effect four months after the period of judgement for water. Because the Mishnah states that the world is judged with regard to water on the festival of Sukkot (15<sup>th</sup> of Tishrei), Hillel concluded that the start of the new water, and hence the new year for trees, should be 4 months later, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shvat. Shammai claimed that since the entire world is judged on Rosh Hashanah (1<sup>st</sup> Tishrei), and that judgement must include a potential judgement about the upcoming water of the new year, that the new water should take effect four months later on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Shvat. Hillel argued that the actual judgement of water on Sukkot took priority over the potential judgement of water on Rosh Hashanah. As with other disputes, the Rabbis decided in favor of Hillel. To read more, see [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#) (and then please come explain it to me!).

The war between Israel and Hamas continues, with no clear end yet in site. For those who wish a daily apolitical accounting of the war and related events, I can recommend to you the daily YouTube video by Dr. Alon Burstein, visiting Assistant Professor, and Israel Institute Fellow, in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. You may find his YouTube channel [here](#).

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 face mask at all times. 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 – JANUARY 2024

Friday	Jan 5	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 4:31 PM)
Saturday	Jan 6	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Jan 7	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Monday	Jan 8	7:30 PM	BHBI Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday	Jan 12	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 4:39 PM)
Saturday	Jan 13	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Va'eira Kiddish luncheon follows service
Sunday	Jan 14	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	Jan 19	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 4:47 PM)
Saturday	Jan 20	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Bo
Sunday	Jan 21	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Thursday	Jan 25	---	Tu B'Shvat, be nice to your trees!
Friday	Jan 26	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 4:47 PM)
Saturday	Jan 27	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Beshalach
Sunday	Jan 28	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link

### THANK YOU TO OUR DECEMBER KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of aunt Barbara Bertman

### DONATIONS

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

*In memory of Emma Aronow*  
Dennis and Eileen Kovel

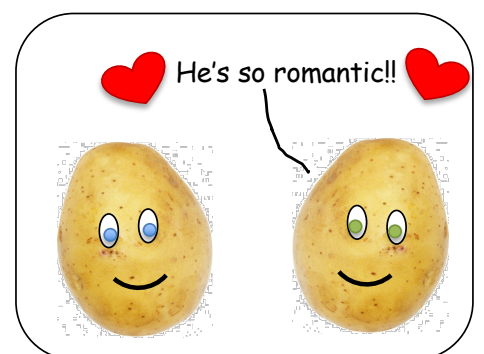
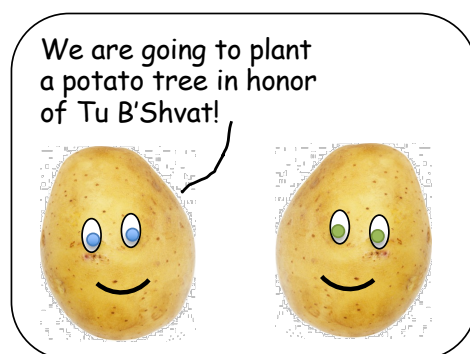
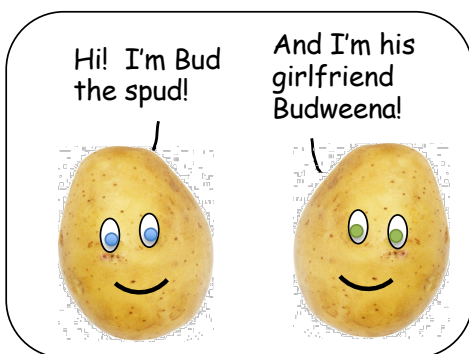
*In honor of Chanukah*  
Judith Mercer

*In memory of Nathan Goldberg*  
Michael Garver

*In memory of mother Barbara Bertman*  
Renee Bertman-Hilton

*In memory of Hannah Langerman*  
Ayala Emmett

### Life in Our Times



## 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.

Jan 5-6	Tevet/Shvat	Jan 12-13	Shvat	Jan 19-20	Shvat	Jan 26-27	Shvat
Samuel Meilstein*	26	Etta Levinson*	4	Daniel Hirsch*	10	Morris Gurian*	17
Ida Boyarsky*	27	Ida Silver*	4	Miriam Weinberger	12	Paul Israel	18
Jack Glazer	28	Sidney Applebaum*	6	Joseph Yudelson	12	Gitla Perkal*	18
Joe Lazarus*	28	Jacob Komenski*	6	Abraham Newell*	13	Samuel Spencer	18
Jean Spencer	1	Gidda Strauss*	6	Anna Sanow*	13	Besse Gold	20
Morris Weinstein*	2	Morris Suskind*	7	Stanley Clark*	16	Benjamin Lapidés*	20
		Hyman Aaron Nusbaum*	8			Simon Pogal*	21
		Herman Strauss*	8			Jacob Rubenstein*	21
		Dvora Brodie*	9			E. Sarah Maltinsky*	23
		Samuel Goldman*	9				
*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](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)

## 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](mailto:gouldron@aol.com)

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Garah Meloy the artist  
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Phone number: 585-286-2560 (call only)  
585-405-3233 (text only)

**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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