

BHBIRochester.org
Published Monthly
Vol 58/No. 5
Shvat – Adar I 5784
February 2024

Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

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President: Steve Teitel
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First Vice-President: Leon Metlay
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February's President's Message

Friends,

This year is a Jewish Leap Year, and so we have both Adar I and Adar II. In a leap year, Purim occurs in Adar II, and so Purim is “late” this year, falling in March. The reason why Jewish holidays can be “late” or “early” is because the Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar cycle, in which each of the 12 months begins with the new moon and so lasts 29 or 30 days. Adding these up, the year would fall short compared to the solar year by about 11 days, so a leap year must be added in 7 out of every 19 years to keep the lunar and solar calendars in sync. If we did not have such leap years, then Jewish holidays would shift by 11 days each year, and so would gradually shift with respect to the seasons fixed by the solar cycle, as is the case with the Islamic calendar. But since the Torah specifies that certain holidays must be synced to specific agricultural cycles (wheat harvest, barley harvest, etc.), this cannot be allowed to happen, hence the introduction of leap years!

While the need for a leap year was realized in ancient times (perhaps as early as 2000 BCE), the system for adding leap years to the Hebrew calendar was standardized in the fourth century by Hillel II using a method based on mathematical and astronomical calculations. The lengths of each month were fixed to alternate between 29 and 30 days, with a 30-day leap month (Adar I) added in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th years of a 19-year cycle (we are currently in the 8th year of such a cycle; our last leap year was in 2022). Further tweaks to the calendar (affecting the lengths of the months of Cheshvan and Kislev) are needed so that Yom Kippur does not fall adjacent to Shabbat, and so Hoshanah Rabba does not fall on Shabbat.

The need to standardize the calendar arose from Roman persecutions, which ultimately forbade the meeting of the Great Sanhedrin (the Rabbinic governing body in ancient Israel) which, among other duties, was responsible for declaring the start of new months. The adoption of the calendar according to Hillel II was approved by a clandestine meeting of the Sanhedrin in 358 CE, and was the last universal decision made by the Great Sanhedrin before it ceased to function.

The upshot of all this? This year you have a whole extra month to prepare your Purim costume!

On Sunday, February 25, there will be a special members meeting at 4:30 pm at BHBI. Information about the meeting has already been sent to you separately. Please make every effort to attend.

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

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2024

| | | | |
|----------|--------|--------------------|--|
| Friday | Feb 2 | 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 5:05 PM) |
| Saturday | Feb 3 | 10:00 AM | Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Yitro |
| Sunday | Feb 4 | 9:00 AM | Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link |
| Friday | Feb 9 | 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 5:15 PM) |
| Saturday | Feb 10 | 10:00 AM | Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Mishpatim Kiddish luncheon follows service |
| Sunday | Feb 11 | 9:00 AM | Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link |
| Monday | Feb 12 | 7:30 PM | BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting on Zoom |
| Friday | Feb 16 | 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 5:24 PM) |
| Saturday | Feb 17 | 10:00 AM | Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Terumah |
| Sunday | Feb 18 | 9:00 AM | Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link |
| Friday | Feb 23 | 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 5:33 PM) |
| Saturday | Feb 24 | 10:00 AM | Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Tetzaveh |
| Sunday | Feb 25 | 9:00 AM 4:30 PM | Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link Special Members Meeting in-person at BHBI |

THANK YOU TO OUR JANUARY KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Jill Clark-Foulkes in memory of father Stanley Clark

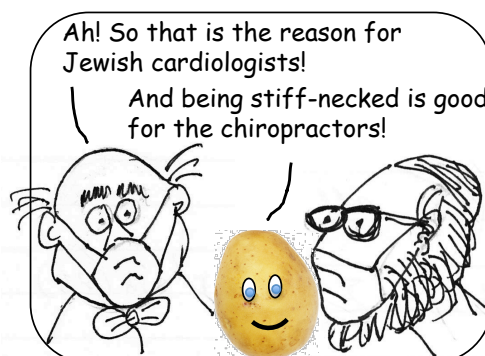
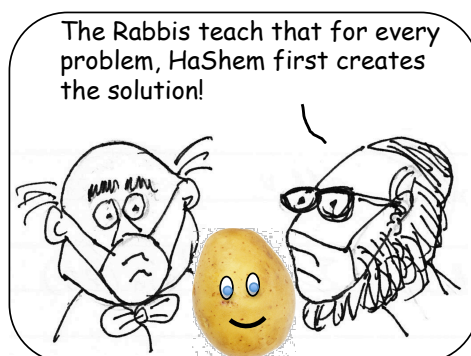
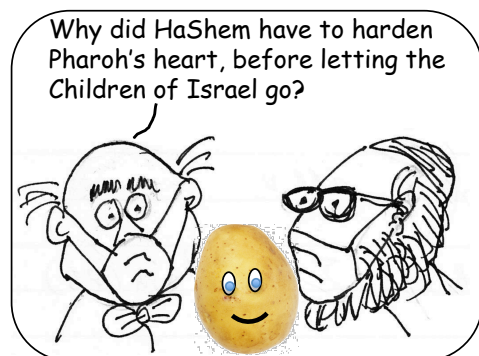
DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In memory of Albert Senzel
Martin Senzel

In memory of Jack Glazer
Ruth and Steve Teitel

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.

| Feb 2-3 | Shvat | Feb 9-10 | Adar I | Feb 16-17 | Adar I | Feb 23-24 | Adar I |
|-------------------|-------|----------|--------|-------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Bert Falk* | 25 | | | Samuel Goldstein* | 10 | Muriel Hobel* | 17 |
| Philip Garver | 26 | | | Max Metlay | 10 | Edna Astrachan* | 19 |
| Mariom Bernstein* | 27 | | | | | Carl Astrachan* | 21 |
| Ada Goldstein* | 27 | | | | | Herman Sarachan* | 21 |
| Samuel Keyfetz* | 27 | | | *Denotes name | | | |
| Lottie Fink* | 29 | | | memorialized on | | | |
| Rose Ring* | 29 | | | BHBI Memorial | | | |
| Boris Schvarts * | 30 | | | 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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Sarah Metlay the artist
Email: angelskyacreate@gmail.com
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

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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