

BHBIRochester.org  
Published Monthly  
Vol 58/No. 7  
Adar II – Nissan 5784  
April 2024

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

**B U L L E T I N**

Editor: Steve Teitel

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

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

*Second Vice-President: Harris Honickman*

**April's Vice President's Message**

Friends,

In the February Bulletin, Steve discussed a bit about the complexity of the Jewish Calendar, the necessity to keep track of both the Sun and the Moon in order to keep our holy days occurring in the correct seasons. Studying the heavens is a laudable activity. There have been famous Jewish astronomers and there are even three craters on the moon named after Rabbis. We are now preparing for a solar eclipse on April 8th.

In Genesis 1:14 it says: G-d said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times—the days and the years." The words "serve as signs" could mean "to be omens." Rashi, the great medieval commentator says of this verse: "When the heavenly luminaries are eclipsed it is a sign of ill-omen for the world ..."

He derives this opinion from the Talmud (Sukkah 29a): "The Sages taught: When the sun is eclipsed it is a bad omen for the entire world. A parable: To what is this matter comparable? To a king of flesh and blood who prepared a feast for his servants and placed a lantern before them to illuminate the hall. He became angry at them and said to his servant: Take the lantern from before them and seat them in darkness. ...The Sages taught: When the sun is eclipsed, it is a bad omen for the other nations. When the moon is eclipsed, it is a bad omen for ... the Jewish people, due to the fact that the Jewish people calculate their calendar based on the moon, and the other nations calculate based on the sun... When the sun is eclipsed in the east, it is a bad omen for the residents of the lands of the east. When it is eclipsed in the west, it is a bad omen for the residents of the lands of the west. When it is eclipsed in the middle of the sky, it is a bad omen for the entire world.

So, we come back to the calendar. A solar eclipse, in fact, always falls near Rosh Chodesh, because the time of the new moon is the only time the moon is directly between the earth and the sun.

Eclipses are natural events. Why would a natural and predictable event be considered an omen? The Maharal of Prague put it this way: light stands for order and darkness stands for chaos. God knew that people would often choose chaos over order. Eclipses remind us that our choices can create darkness, even when there should be light. We have to choose to seek the light.

Jeremiah (10:2) says: "Do not learn to go the way of the nations, And do not be dismayed by portents in the sky; Let the nations be dismayed by them!" If we follow God's will, we need not fear.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe said that eclipses are meant to be opportunities for increasing in prayer and introspection. They are not a joyous occasion and there is no special blessing for seeing an eclipse.

Of course, if you go out to see the eclipse (even if it's cloudy) be sure to wear proper eye protection.

See you at shul,  
*Leon Metlay*

**SHABBAT SERVICES**

**BHBI** has in-person **Shabbat Morning Services**, each Saturday at 9:30 AM. All attendees must be vaccinated against Covid and wear a face mask, except when sitting at the kiddish tables on the west side of the sanctuary. Masks are available in the sanctuary for those who need. 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 – APRIL 2024

Friday	Apr 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 7:24 PM)
Saturday	Apr 6	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Shemini
Sunday	Apr 7	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Monday	Apr 8	3:20 PM 7:30 PM	Total Solar Eclipse! 3 minutes and 38 seconds without the sun! BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting on Zoom
Friday	Apr 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 7:32 PM)
Saturday	Apr 13	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Tazria Kiddish luncheon follows service
Sunday	Apr 14	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	Apr 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 7:40 PM)
Saturday	Apr 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Metzora
Sunday	Apr 21	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Monday	April 22	---	Erev 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Pesach – Enjoy your seder! (light candles 7:44 PM)
Tuesday	April 23	9:30 AM ----	Pesach 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Service at BHBI Erev 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Pesach – Enjoy your seder! (light candles after 8:49 PM)
Wednesday	April 24	9:30 AM	Pesach 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Service at BHBI
Friday	Apr 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 7:48 PM)
Saturday	Apr 27	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Pesach Chol Hamoed
Sunday	Apr 28	9:00 AM ---	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link Erev 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Pesach (light candles 7:51 PM)
Monday	Apr 29	9:30 AM ---	Pesach 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Service at BHBI Erev 8 <sup>th</sup> Day Pesach (light candles after 8:57 PM)
Tuesday	Apr 30	9:30 AM 8:58 PM	Pesach 8 <sup>th</sup> Day Service with Yizkor at BHBI Pesach Ends. Wait until 9:35 PM before using previously sold chametz.

### THANK YOU TO OUR MARCH KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in honor of the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday of grandson James Metlay

### DONATIONS

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

*In memory of Lea Kron*  
Tamara Strubel

*In Memory of Harry Aronow*  
Eileen Kovel

*In memory of Irving Gold*  
Lyn and Norm Adams

### *We wish you a very Happy Pesach!*

Please use the attached insert to sell your chametz for the holiday. Rabbi Aaron Marsh will again be our agent for selling chametz. If you wish to make a contribution to Rabbi Marsh's discretionary fund, in appreciation for this service, you can make out a check to "EMBEJC Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" and mail it to: East Meadow Beth-El Jewish Center, 1400 Prospect Avenue, East Meadow NY 11554

## 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.

Apr 5-6	Adar II /Nissan	Apr 12-13	Nissan	Apr 19-20	Nissan	Apr 26-27	Nissan
Lea Kron	27	Gertrude Kleinstein*	5	Helen Neiman Goldman*	14	David Morris*	20
Harris Priceman*	27	Rachael Weinstein*	5	Sylvia Kowal	14	Jacob Weinrib*	20
Rebecca Cohen*	28	Esther Bertman*	8	Harry Toker	14	Beatrice Goldstein*	21
Sarah Shulsky*	28	Max Block	8	Leo Buchbinder*	15	Benjamin Ritter	21
Mollie Wolk*	28	Seymour Ouzer*	10	Michael Kron	15	Yetta Levine*	22
Karoline Hess*	29	Charles Levy	11	Sol Levin*	15	Evelyn Maimon	23
Sadie Rose	29	Morris Lipman*	11	Rose Jossem*	16	Simon Finkelman	24
Sam Wolk*	29			Judith Potter*	16	Louis Priceman*	25
Lena Levi*	1			Louis Cohen*	18	Dorothy Riwkin*	25
Lester Miller*	1					Samuel B. Spiller*	25
Gertrude Swartz	1	*Denotes name					
Benjamin Braz*	2	memorialized on					
Dr. Charles Cohen*	2	BHBI Memorial					
Morris Sherman*	3	Plaque					
Eli Gerber*	4						
Jack Rodney	4						

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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Sarah Melay the artist  
Email: [angelskyacreate@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)

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

## Sale of Ḥametz – Passover 2024

*Note: If possible, all ḥametz - food not acceptable during Pesach (Passover), or materials containing such unacceptable food should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the ḥametz may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends.*

*Please complete the form below and return to **Congregation BHBI, 1369 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14610** to be in the office no later than **Monday, April 15, 2024**. Note: **All forms MUST be signed and indicate the address of the ḥametz to be sold, or they will not be valid.** You may also email a **signed and scanned copy of this form to BHBIrochester@gmail.org**. All emailed forms must be received by **5pm, April 15, 2024**. You must wait until 9:35pm on the last day of Pesach (April 30) before using any of your previously sold ḥametz, so as to allow Rabbi Marsh sufficient time to buy it back for you.*

KNOW ALL PEOPLE BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, the undersigned do here by make and appoint Rabbi Aaron Marsh my true and lawful representative to act in my place and stead, for me and in my name and in my behalf, to sell all ḥametz owned and possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly, as stated in the Torah and defined by the sages of Israel (e.g., ḥametz; ḥashash ḥametz—suspect ḥametz; and all kinds of ta'arovet ḥametz—ḥametz mixtures); also, ḥametz that tends to harden and to adhere to the surface of pans, pots, or other cooking or eating utensils, of whatsoever nature, and to lease all places wherein the aforementioned ḥametz owned or possessed by me may be found, especially in the premises located at

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(address(es) and location(s) where ḥametz is stored)

Rabbi Aaron Marsh has the full authority and power to sell said ḥametz and to lease said place or places where in said ḥametz may be found, upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. Rabbi Aaron Marsh has the full power and authority to assign or appoint a substitute or substitutes to act in my behalf with all the same powers and authority that I have invested in Rabbi Aaron Marsh, and I do hereby ratify and confirm all that Rabbi Aaron Marsh or a rabbinic substitute lawfully does or causes to be done by virtue of these presents. And to this I hereby affix my signature on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year **2024**  
(date) (month)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_