

BHBIRochester.org
Published Monthly
Vol 60/No. 2
Kislev - Tevet 5786
December 2025

Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

Editor: Steve Teitel

*President: Leon Metlay
Treasurer: Ira Cohen*

*First Vice-President: Harris Honickman
Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky*

Second Vice-President: Steve Teitel

December's President's Message

Friends,

This has been a year of “firsts” for our congregation. First services outside of East Ave, first Kiddush in our new room, etc. With each “first” we adapt a bit more to our new environment. This month will bring our first Chanukah party in our new home. The party will be on the first night, Sunday, December 14th. The party starts at 5 with candle lighting at the beginning. We will be upstairs in the Garden Room instead of in our Kiddush room, for proximity to the kitchen. Besides candles and food, there will be songs, games, and good fellowship. I’m looking forward to seeing you all there.

The past year has seen a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in our country. Some have thought this was related to the Israel-Hamas conflict, but the sort-of cease-fire has not brought an end to it, or even a reduction. Some within our national government seem to be cozying up with anti-Semites. I thought it would be germane to bring back a discussion of the Prayer for our Country, first published in December, 2016:

There was a disagreement between Harris Honickman and Steve Teitel about the source of an admonition to pray for our country. Harris said it was in the Book of Jeremiah, Steve said it was in Pirke Avot in the Mishnah. They were both right. Jeremiah, writing 2500 years ago, tells the exiles in Babylonia that they should build houses, plant gardens, have children, and carry on with their lives. Then he adds: “Seek the peace of the city into which I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the L-rd for it: for in its peace, you shall have peace.” (29:7) Pirke Avot is a collection of wise sayings of the early Rabbis, from the time of the Hasmonean kings (1st century BCE) to the time of the Bar Kochba rebellion (2nd century CE). Rabbi Chanina, who lived before the destruction of the Temple said, “Pray for the welfare of the government, since but for the fear thereof men would swallow each other alive.” (Avot 3:2) Jeremiah and Chanina are both telling their people to pray for their conquerors, Babylon and Rome. Even if the government is against you, you pray for its welfare, so that it will protect you. According to the Talmud (Yoma 69a), when Alexander the Great came to Jerusalem, he was met by the High Priest, Simon the Just, who asked him “Is it possible that star-worshippers should mislead you to destroy the house wherein prayers are said for you and your kingdom that it never be destroyed?” Thus, praying for the government seems to date back at least to 333 BCE. There is some irony here. Jews have been the outsiders for much of our history, and have often been accused of being more loyal to our people than to the nation in which we live. Yet, we always pray for the nation. The origins of the “modern” wording of the prayer appear to be in the middle ages. According to the Hertz siddur, the words date from Worms in the 11th century. The words have varied from country to country and from century to century. As we look into the future, we will continue to fervently pray: “Do thou instruct them out of thy law, that they may administer all affairs of state in justice and equity, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, right and freedom, may forever abide among us.”

Try to stay warm!

Leon

TORAH READERS WANTED!

Would you like to learn how to chant the Torah at services? We have several members who would be happy to tutor you! Why not give it a try? You’d be helping out the Congregation and doing a mitzvah at the same time! Contact the shul at BHBIRochester@gmail.com if you are interested.

BHBI Website: www.BHBIRochester.org

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2025

Friday	Dec 5	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and on Zoom – see page 3 for further information (light candles 4:17 PM)
Saturday	Dec 6	9:30 PM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayishlach <i>Kiddish with Temple Beth El following service</i>
Sunday	Dec 7	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	Dec 8	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting on Zoom
Friday	Dec 12	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and on Zoom – see page 3 for further information (light candles 4:17 PM)
Saturday	Dec 13	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayeishev
Sunday	Dec 14	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link First night of Channukah - BHBI Dinner and Party in the TBE Garden Room
Friday	Dec 19	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and on Zoom – see page 3 for further information (light candles 4:19 PM)
Saturday	Dec 20	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Mikeitz <i>Kiddish luncheon following service in BHBI's kiddish room</i>
Sunday	Dec 21	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	Dec 26	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and on Zoom – see page 3 for further information (light candles 4:23 PM)
Saturday	Dec 27	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayigash
Sunday	Dec 28	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Tuesday	Dec 30	---	Fast of the Tenth of Tevet

THANK YOU TO OUR NOVEMBER KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky in memory of Bernard Klionsky, Rose Walder, and Fannie Titof,
and in honor of many Metlay birthdays (Leon, Beth, Katharine, Robynne)

DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

In memory of Barbara Bertman and Beverly Clark
Renee Bertman-Hilton

In memory of Eleanor Teitel
Steve and Ruth Teitel

In memory of Dianne Hooker and
In memory of Charles and Mary Franke
Ira Cohen and Ellen Franke

For the health of Dalton Trujillo
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Lenard Gold
Lyn and Norm Adams

In memory of Rona Luxemburg
Sue Baker

BHBI CHANUKAH DINER AND PARTY

BHBI's annual Chanukah Party will take place Sunday, December 14, starting at 5pm. This is the first night of Chanukah!! Bring your menorah and candles and we will light them together, followed by singing all our traditional Chanukah songs. Dinner, with latkes and lentil soup, follows. The cost is \$10/adult, \$5/child 12 or under, and may be paid at the door. **Reservations required by Sunday, December 7, at 5pm,** emailed to: BHBIRochester@gmail.com



We wish you all a happy and joyous Chanukah!!!



YAHREZEITS

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.

Dec 5-6	Kislev	Dec 12-13	Kislev	Dec 19-20	Tevet	Dec 26-27	Tevet
Bernard Rodney	17	Ida Bobb	24	Morris Kanthor*	3	Meriam Jossem*	7
Edward M. Hart	19	Emanuel Kovel'ski*	24	Morton Fink*	4	Mary Franke	8
Hyman Ring*	20	Sarah Hoffman*	25	Abraham Weinstein*	4	David Goodman*	8
Joseph Goldberg*	21	Hyman Snider*	25	Abraham Stolnitz*	5	Selma Kauffman Lansky*	9
		Michael Miller*	27	Barbara Bertman*	6	Rebecca H. Nussbaum*	10
		Emma Aranow*	28	Sigmund Traub*	6	William Silverstein*	10
		Karen Cohen	28			Maurice Bloom*	11
						Sadye Abelman*	12
						Sol Lazarus*	12
						Fannie Osband*	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 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.

SHABBAT SERVICES

BHBI has in-person **Shabbat Morning Services**, each Saturday at 9:30 AM. All attendees over 5 years of age must be vaccinated against Covid. All attendees over 3 years of age must wear a face mask, unless sitting in the "unmasking" section of the sanctuary. Masks are available in the sanctuary for those who need.

Temple Beth El has **Shabbat Evening Services** on Fridays at 6 PM. Services are in-person at Temple Beth El, in the TBE Chapel, and live-streamed on Zoom. For the Zoom link and other details, visit the Beth El website: <https://www.tberochester.org/pray/virtual-services/>

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Sarah Melloy 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. Snail mail must be sent to P.O. Box 20891, Rochester, NY 14602. 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.

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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