

BHBIRochester.org
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Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

Editor: Steve Teitel

*President: Harris Honickman
Treasurer: Ira Cohen*

*First Vice-President: Steve Teitel
Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky*

Second Vice-President: Leon Metlay

June's President's Message

Friends,

There are those who allege that Israel has committed war crimes. That assertion was also made in a NY Times news article [Walsh, D. (2021 May 16) Section A page 1 New York Times] – not an editorial or opinion column. Among the allegations against Israel is that its response was disproportionate. As I write this the UN Human Rights Council has voted to formally investigate human rights violations by Israel in the recent conflict.

Is there a requirement that if the enemy kills 12 of your people and tries to kill many more by firing rockets at your cities, that your response should only result in 12 deaths on the other side? During the Afghanistan War, the U.S. and coalition forces killed over 140 thousand people fighting against al-Qaida, ISIS and the Taliban. Of those killed, 70,000 were civilians. How much call has there been to charge America with war crimes? During the 2nd World War the U.S. firebombed Tokyo, other Japanese cities, Berlin, Dresden and other German cities – killing many more civilians than Japan or Germany did American soldiers. The Hamas rockets did not target Israeli military installations – only cities and towns. There are plenty of Israeli military installations far away from civilian centers.

The NY Times also reports [Kingsley, P., Bergman, P. (2021 May 21) Section A page 1 New York Times] that “Like the United States, Israel considers Hamas a terrorist group.” Really? *Considers?* A group that blows up municipal buses, pizza restaurants, wedding parties, and uses young girls as suicide bombers to carry out the attacks – is that something that should only be *c o n s i d e r e d* a terrorist organization? Do any astronomers say they consider the earth to be round and not flat? That style of muting clearly negative facts about Israel's enemies is typical of the NY Times.

Buried at the end of this same NY Times article is a brief statement by an Israeli officer “Hamas systematically hides its commanders and rocket sites within residential areas, one senior Israeli officer in Beersheba said. There is no target that is separated from the people,” he said. Every target is among the people.” Israel reports it killed about 130 Hamas fighters. Hamas admits to 80. Most Hamas operatives don't wear uniforms. Does that make them “civilians”? It is tragic that children were also killed. There is the question of how many children were located in the tunnel system where Hamas hides its rockets, other weapons, armed militia fighters and support personnel. Despite its small size, there are plenty of places in Gaza where weapons could be stored away from civilians. How many hundreds of millions of dollars – provided by the U.S. and other countries for reconstruction after previous wars – were diverted and used to build those tunnels?

There are genuine criticisms of the Israeli government – including the prime minister. Israel's relations with its Arab residents in Jerusalem should be improved and ways found to be less harsh. The specific dispute about the Sheikh Jarrah area in Jerusalem is complex and is partly driven by the expulsion of Jews in 1948 and the Arabs responding to calls to leave to make way for invading Arab armies. There is controversy about who made those calls, how much they mattered in Arabs leaving.

(continued on page 3)

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JUNE 2021

Friday	June 4	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:28 PM)
Saturday	June 5	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Shlach
Sunday	June 6	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	June 11	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:32 PM)
Saturday	June 12	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Korach
Sunday	June 13	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	June 14	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom
Friday	June 18	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am with Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:35 PM)
Saturday	June 19	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Chukat
Sunday	June 20	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	June 25	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth Am and Ohel Avraham on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 8:36 PM)
Saturday	June 26	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Balak
Sunday	June 27	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link

SERVICES

BHBI has resumed 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. Masks are required, KN95 masks available, and seating is socially distanced. If you feel comfortable to attend, we would love to welcome you back to services! 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 every Friday on Zoom. If you wish to join, please connect to the service before the start of Shabbat and set your computer not to go into sleep mode. The Beth Am Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6337493851>

SMALL CONSERVATIVE SHUL COLLABORATIVE TORAH STUDY

Our monthly Torah study session is temporarily suspended.

BABY NAMING!

Saturday, June 12, we will have a baby naming during Shabbat Morning Service, for the new daughter of Maxine and Ben St. Onge, and sister to Penelope. Our best wishes to the family!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Noah Samuel Honickman, on his graduation from the University of Rochester's School of Arts and Science with a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Studies with a minor in Audio and Music Engineering.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our Officers and Trustees, elected at our May annual meeting:

President: Harris Honickman, 1st Vice President: Steve Teitel, 2nd Vice President: Leon Metlay

Treasurer: Ira Cohen, Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky

Trustees: Paula Bobb, Emily Fishman, Aline Honickman, Judith Mercer, and brand new trustee Katharine Carney

(President's message continued)

And yes, there were instances where Jewish militias took advantage of the situation to force out and abuse some Arab residents. Israel has also taken advantage of its position as victor in past wars to give Israeli Jews an advantage in the courts.

Now there are calls to rebuild Gaza with 100s of millions in American aid. The U.S. administration says it will rely on the Palestinian Authority to supervise that – obviously not trusting Hamas. Does one have to cite the corruption of the PA over the last 25 years to suggest that very little of the aid will help the Gazan people and will end up contributing to more lethal threats against Israel? The tunnels were partly sponsored by Qatar with equipment and supplies smuggled into Gaza. Will Israel's response to those threats also be called a "war crime"?

You may disagree with some of my observations. If so, then I repeat my invitation to all of you at our annual meeting to contribute to this monthly letter with your own views.

We had very pleasant weather for our outdoor Shavuot 1st Day service as well as for most of our outdoor Shabbat services over the last 2 months; and we had minyans for almost all of them. At some point we'll resume all the rituals of the Torah service with the aliyot touching the Torah and carrying it around the sanctuary. That's no reason to wish for a continuation of the COVID restrictions. Some of us would like to return to indoor services to avoid the distractions of traffic noise, insects and sun glare. Others would prefer to prolong the outdoor services. What do you think? Write in and let us know.

On behalf of all the officers and trustees who were elected at the annual meeting, I wish to thank you all for your vote of confidence. Please go beyond that and offer to help with the preparation of the Shabbat kiddushim, the building committee the ritual committee and all the functions that our shul provides. Many hands make light work!

See you at shul,
Harris Honickman

DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In honor of June Family Birthdays
Leon Metlay and Nina Klionsky

In memory of Nina's mother Esther Walder Klionsky
Nina Klionsky and Leon Metlay



**The National Council of Jewish Women
reminds you to vote in the June 22 Primary!**

Below is a link to all candidates who will be running for office in November.

The ones of most interest have an asterisk next to their name **because they are in primaries on June 22nd**. Check the list to see if anyone in your district is running in a primary and **VOTE!**

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/files/boe/Candidates%20List%20-%20Full%20Candidates%20Listing%2020210514%20UPDATED.pdf>

If you don't know who the incumbents are, or you have any questions, call the Board of Elections, and ask: (585) 753-1550. They are helpful.

Below is a link to obtain an absentee ballot for both the June 22, 2021 primary and the November 2, 2021 elections. Whether you choose **Online Absentee Ballot Application** or **Printable Absentee Ballot Application**, check "Temporary illness or physical disability." The NYS Legislature extended "no excuse absentee voting" until December 31, 2021. <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-absentee>

For further information go to <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections>

ANOTHER VOTE? YES!

Primary Day is June 22, 2021

And Early Voting is available!



Early Primary Voting Days-June 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 9am-3pm
13 9am-3pm	14 9am-5pm	15 11am-8pm	16 9am-5pm	17 11am-8pm	18 9am-3pm	19 9am-3pm
20 9am-3pm	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Monroe County residents can vote at any of the following early voting polling locations:

Rochester	David F. Gantt Community Center	700 North St, Rochester, NY 14605
Rochester	Boys & Girls Club	500 Genesee St, Rochester, NY 14611
Rochester	Sibley Square	250 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14604
Rochester	Edgerton Recreation Center	41 Backus St, Rochester, NY 14608
Rochester	Norton Village Recreation Center	350 Waring Rd, Rochester, NY 14609
Rochester	SUNY Empire State College	680 Westfall Rd, Rochester, NY 14620
Chili	Town of Chili Senior Center	3235 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14624
Greece	North Greece Road Church of Christ	1039 N Greece Rd, Rochester, NY 14626
Henrietta	Henrietta Public Library	625 Calkins Rd, Rochester, NY 14623
Irondequoit	Irondequoit Public Library	1290 Titus Ave, Rochester, NY 14617
Penfield	PCC Community Room	3100 Atlantic Ave, Penfield, NY 14526
Perinton	Perinton Square Mall	6720 Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Fairport, NY 14450
Sweden	Sweden Clarkson Community Center	4927 Lake Rd, Brockport, NY 14420
Webster	Webster Library	980 Ridge Rd, Webster, NY 14580

**Register to vote or request an absentee ballot-
Check out this link:**

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections>



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.

June 4-5	Sivan	June 11-12	Tamuz	June 18-19	Tamuz	June 25-26	Tamuz
Ada Gordon*	25	Samuel Hoffman*	2	Sarah Schnidman*	9	Yetta Goldman*	16
Stella Getz*	27	Sarah Sarachan*	2	Rabbi Aaron Solomon*	9	Sheila Kleinstein*	16
Mary Goldman*	27	Eva Goodman*	3	Eva Krinsky*	10	Sarah Markin*	16
Betty Newell*	27	Rose Joffe*	3	Esther Walder Klionsky	11	Sam Hector*	20
Eva Wasserman*	27	Jennie Epstein*	4	Phillip Morrow*	11	Harry Sarachan*	20
Isadore Goldman*	29	David Glasser*	4	Rochli Rothschild*	11	Rose Schiff*	20
Hyb Jossem*	30	Alan Fishman	5	Gad Strubel*	13	Louis Edelson*	21
		Morris Krinsky*	7	Rachel Strauss*	14	Bernard Sallerson*	21
		Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque		Rachel Morris	14		
				Sarah Singer*	15		

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 Leon Metlay at BHBIRochester@gmail.com.

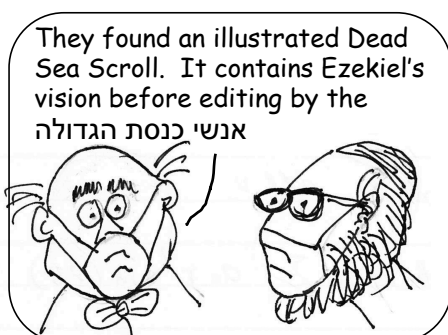
CEMETERY PLOTS

Did you know that BHBI has designated sections at Stone Road, Britten 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

So far our *TOPS* Gift Card fundraiser has been quite successful. Remember, *TOPS* Gift Cards are now 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

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Hannah Metlay
Photographer

hannahrenametlay@gmail.com
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Call only: 585-286-2560
Text only: 585-405-3233

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.

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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