

BHBIRochester.org  
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December 2021

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel**

# BULLETIN

Editor: Steve Teitel

*President: Harris Honickman*

*First Vice-President: Steve Teitel*

*Second Vice-President: Leon Metlay*

*Treasurer: Ira Cohen*

*Recording Secretary: Nina Kliensky*

## **December's President's Message**

Friends,

As this letter is delivered to you, we continue to celebrate Chanukah which began on November 28 and continues to December 6<sup>th</sup>. The events which led to the first Chanukah parallel some of the controversies among Jews in modern times.

The Persians defeated the Babylonian empire and allowed – even encouraged – many Jews to return to Eretz Yisroel (Land of Israel) after their exile. Persian rule was somewhat benign and the returning Jews were given sanction to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Indeed the later prophets rebuked the people for being lethargic in the reconstruction. Even after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple was rebuilt, the very last prophet, Malachi, sharply criticized the lackadaisical attitude and relaxed way that the services were conducted in the Temple. He castigated the priests for calling their duties “wearisome.”

A large portion of the Jewish population remained in Babylon and became quite comfortable, prospering in their exile. In Judah and Samaria, we have sparse information up until the conquest by Alexander when the Macedonian Greeks took control from Persia. After Alexander's death, Judah was ruled by the Ptolemaic kingdom. Later, around 200 BCE, the Seleucid kingdom defeated the Ptolemies. The interaction with the Greeks was complex; many Jews embraced the Hellenist culture and were attracted to its art and philosophy. Some went as far as indulging in the gymnasiums and as was customary with the Greeks, participated naked in the sporting events.

That behavior and other examples of adopting Greek practices offended “traditional” Jews. Later, the Seleucids under Antiochus IV Epiphanes instituted increasing restrictions on Jewish practice, including prohibiting Shabbat observance, kashrut and circumcision. One account mentions that a statue of Zeus was placed in the Temple. When a Jew agreed to sacrifice a pig, the Hasmonean priest Mattityahu slew him. His sons, called Maccabees, led a successful rebellion which lasted from 168 to 164 BCE at which time the Temple was cleansed, rededicated and the Menorah burned miraculously for eight days with only one day's supply of oil.

The war with the Greeks lasted another 20 years with intermittent victories and defeats. The noble character of the Maccabees did not carry over to their descendants who took on Greek names such as John Hyrcanus and Aristobulus. There were rivalries and internecine bloodshed. Still later, the Romans and the Idumean Herod supplanted the remaining Hasmoneans to oppressively rule Judah - oblivious to the pious sensitivities of the population. The rivalry between the Sadducees and Pharisees contributed to internal strife with “hateful speech” and “causeless hatred”. That is what the rabbis assert was a principle cause for the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple.

There are lessons our history provides for the present.

When some of our fellow Jews take a more traditional or orthodox, even “ultra-orthodox” observance of our faith – the “black hats” – we might consider how their sensibilities are like those of the

(continued on page 2)

**HAPPY CHANUKAH!!!**

**BHBI Website: [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://www.BHBIRochester.org)**

## BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2021

Friday	Dec 3	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat at Temple Beth Am in-person and on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 4:18 PM)
Saturday	Dec 4	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Mikeitz
Sunday	Dec 5	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	Dec 10	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat at Temple Beth Am in-person and on Zoom – see below for further information (light candles 4:17 PM)
Saturday	Dec 11	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayigash
Sunday	Dec 12	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Monday	Dec 13	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom
Friday	Dec 17	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat at Temple Beth on Zoom only – see below for further information (light candles 4:19 PM)
Saturday	Dec 18	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayechi
Sunday	Dec 19	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	Dec 24	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat at Temple Beth on Zoom only – see below for further information (light candles 4:22 PM)
Saturday	Dec 25	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Shemot
Sunday	Dec 26	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit <a href="http://www.BHBIRochester.org">www.BHBIRochester.org</a> for the Zoom link
Friday	Dec 31	---	To be announced – check the Temple Beth Am website (light candles 4:27 PM)

### SHABBAT 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. 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** most Fridays at 6 PM live-streamed on Zoom. Several services each month (see calendar above) are also in-person in the TBA sanctuary as well as on Zoom. If you wish to join in-person, reservations are required at least two days before the service. Make reservations by emailing Ronna Marsh at [ronnamarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:ronnamarsh@yahoo.com). For in-person services, masks are required and you must present proof of covid vaccination (a valid vaccination card or NYS Excelsior pass) either at the service or in advance by emailing Ronna. If you wish to join the Zoom stream, please connect to the service before the start of Shabbat/Holiday and set your computer not to go into sleep mode. Please confirm service details by going to the Beth Am website, [bethamrochester.org](http://bethamrochester.org). The Beth Am Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6337493851>

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(President's Message continued)

Hasmoneans and the Maccabees. Similarly, we also remember that some rituals and attire are actually minhag (custom) with acceptable variations depending on the history of the community. Rituals and visible attire are not ends in themselves – but meant to lead us to positive action – mitzvot – and a better life.

Perhaps the real miracle of Chanukah is, that the middle of a dystopian era like the present, a brief victory so long ago accompanied by a candelabra which inexplicably burned for eight days could still inspire and bring joy to so many.

Happy Chanukah,  
*Harris Honickman*

## DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In memory of mother Eleanor Teitel  
*Steve and Ruth Teitel*

In memory of Charles and Mary Franke  
*Ellen Franke and Ira Cohen*

In memory of Tanja Block  
*Cathy Block*

In honor of the hard work of Harris Honickman  
and Steve Teitel  
*Dave Rogachefsky*

In memory of mother Ingeborg Vogelstein  
*Hermann Vogelstein*

For the General Fund  
*Mark Bobb*

In memory of Bernard Rodney  
*Paula Bobb*

In memory of Edward Hart  
*Steve and Helen Gulack*

In memory of Albert Sanzel  
*Martin Sanzel*

In memory of Peg Toker, Stanley Toker, Rae Toker,  
Rose Nidetz, and Mark Blue  
*Jeff Nidetz and Leslie Toker*

In memory of Stanley Toker, Rae Toker, and Mark Blue  
*Estate of Peg Toker*

In honor of daughter Hannah's birthday  
*Leon Metlay and Nina Kliensky*

## HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Judith Mercer

## MAKE YOUR PURCHASES AT AMAZON.COM AND SUPPORT BHBI AT THE SAME TIME!

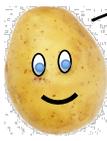
Why not contribute to BHBI while making on-line purchases? It's easy to make purchases on-line at Amazon.com and support BHBI financially at the same time. Just go to the BHBI web page at [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://www.BHBIRochester.org) and click on the Amazon.com link. Each time you make a purchase after linking to Amazon.com from our web page, BHBI gets a percentage of the purchase price. The more you buy in this way, the more BHBI makes!

## BHBI WEBSITE

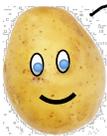
Have you checked out the BHBI web site lately? If you haven't there is a lot that you're missing. The web site at [www.BHBIRochester.org](http://www.BHBIRochester.org) provides information about many aspects of our congregation, lists the BHBI calendar, has electronic versions of this and previous bulletins going back several years, has an extensive history of our congregation along with historic photos, includes photos from several BHBI dinners, picnics and other special events, and has the unique Adon Olam Songbook with information on over 100 melodies for Adon Olam.

## The Adventures of Bud the Spud

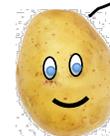
Hi! In the old country my name was Karl Kartufel . . . but at Ellis Island they changed it to Bud the Spud.



I'm good for latkes, kugels, knishes, and other tasty holiday noshes.



But before you eat me, make sure to check whether to say shehakol or ha'adama!\*



It's very confusing, but you don't want to make a mistake!

\* [https://ohr.edu/this\\_week/insights\\_into\\_halacha/5184](https://ohr.edu/this_week/insights_into_halacha/5184)

## YAHARZEITS

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 3-4	Tevet	Dec 10-11	Tevet	Dec 17-18	Tevet	Dec 24-25	Tevet
Morris Kanthor*	3	Meriam Jossem*	7	Joseph Morris*	14	Anna Buff*	21
Morton Fink*	4	Mary Franke	8	Celia Suskind*	14	Benjamin Dvorkin*	21
Abraham Weinstein*	4	David Goodman*	8	Dora Rogovin*	15	Goldie Simon*	23
Abraham Stolnitz*	5	Selma Kauffman Lansky*	9	Nathan Goldberg	16	Leah Keyfetz*	24
Barbara Bertman*	6	Rebecca H. Nussbaum*	10	Fannie Sablowsky*	17	Esther Sanzel*	24
Sigmund Traub*	6	William Silverstein*	10	Philip Sanzel*	17	Samuel Meilstein*	26
		Maurice Bloom*	11	Joseph Schiff*	17	Ida Boyarsky*	27
Dec 31 – Jan 1	Tevet/ Shvat	Sadye Abelman*	12	Hannah Senzel*	17		
Jack Glazer	28	Sol Lazarus*	12	Louis Bernstein*	18	*Denotes name memorialized on BHBI Memorial Plaque	
Joe Lazarus*	28	Fannie Osband**	13	Carl Kleinstein*	18		
Jean Spencer	1			Rose Needler*	18		
Morris Weinstein*	2			Estelle Hirsch*	19		
Etta Levinson*	4			Shie Schnidman*	19		
Ida Silver*	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 Leon Metlay at [BHBIRochester@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)

## THANKS TO OUR AD SPONSORS

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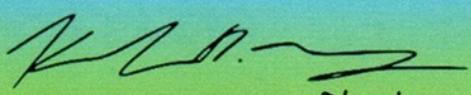
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Text only: 585-405-3233

While we can't have our annual Chanukah Party due to COVID precautions, here are some favorites from parties past.

<b>Sung to the tune of "As Time Goes By"</b>	
<p>You must remember this, A bris is still a bris, A chai is just a chai. Pastrami still belongs on rye, As time goes by.</p> <p>With holidays in view, A Jew is still a Jew, On that you can rely. No matter if we eat tofu As time goes by.</p> <p>Old shtetl customs, never out of date. All those potatoes someone has to grate. One flame in the window, keep counting till there's eight To light the winter sky.</p>	<p>In the Bronx or in the Mission, It's still the same tradition, That no one can deny. We roam, but we recall our birthright, As time goes by.</p> <p>Dreidels and chocolate, never out of date. Ancient Semitic glories to relate. Blue-and-white giftwrap, ain't this country great, And festive chazerai!</p> <p>It's still the same old Torah, It's still the same menorah, We've latkes still to fry. December's when I feel most Jewish, As time goes by.</p>

<b>At Our Chanukah Party, We Always Enjoy Reciting "The Night Before Chanukah"</b>	
<p>'Twas the night before Chanukah, boychicks and maidels Not a sound could be heard, not even the draidels. The Menorah was set on the chimney, alight In the kitchen the Bubba hut gechapt a bite. Salami, pastrami, a glessala tay And zayerah pickles with bagels, oy vay! Gezunt and geschmack, the kinderlech felt While dreaming of tagelach and Chanukah gelt.</p> <p>The clock on the mantelpiece away was tickin' And Bubba was serving a schtickala chicken. A tumult arose like a thousand brauches, Santa had fallen and broken his tuches. I put on my slippers, eins, tsvay, drei, While Bubba was now on the herring and rye. I grabbed for my bathrobe and buttoned my gotkes While Bubba was busy devouring the latkes.</p> <p>To the window I ran and to my surprise A little red yarmulka greeted my eyes. Then he got to the door and saw the Menorah, "Yiddishe kinder," he said, "Kenehora. I thought I was in a goyisha hoise, But as long as I'm here, I'll leave a few toys."</p>	<p>With much gessshray, I asked, "Du bist a Yid?" "Avada, mein numen is Schloimey Claus, kid." "Come into the kitchen, I'll get you a dish, A guppell, a schtickala fish." With smacks of delight, he started his fressen, Chopped liver, knaidlach and kreplah gegessen. Along with his meal, he had a few schnapps, When it came to eating, this boy was the tops.</p> <p>He asked for some knishes with pepper and salt, But they were so hot, he yelled "Oy Gevalt." Unbuttoning his haizen, he rose from the tisch, And said, "Your Kosher essen is simply delish." As he went to the door, he said "I'll see you later, I'll be back next Pesach, in time for the Seder."</p> <p>More rapid than eagles his prancers they came, As he whistled and shourted and called them by name: "Now Izzy, now Morris, now Yitzak, now Sammy, Now Irving and Maxie, and Moishe and Mannie." He gave a gessshray as he drove out of sight: "Gooten Yomtov to all, and to all a good night."</p>

**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.

**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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