BHBIRochester.org
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November 2026

Editor: Steve Teitel

Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel

BULLETIN

President: Leon Metlay *First Vice-President: Steve Teitel* *Second Vice-President: Harris Honickman*
Treasurer: Ira Cohen *Recording Secretary: Nina Klionsky*

November's President's Message

Friends,

We are in the month of Marcheshvan, often referred to as Cheshvan. "Mar" in Hebrew means "bitter", and a popular explanation says that Marcheshvan means Bitter Cheshvan. (In actuality, Marcheshvan is a transliteration of an Akkadian word meaning "8th month".) Why is Cheshvan bitter? Because after all the holidays in Tishrei, there are no holidays in Marcheshvan. The Ethiopian Jews rescue Marcheshvan, because they have the holiday of Sigd, which falls on the 29th of Marcheshvan, a day of fasting followed by feasting and celebration, in memory of Ezra and Nehemiah. It falls on the evening of Sunday November 8th through the 9th. Happy Sigd everyone!

Last month I made some mystical speculation about references to G-d's wings, suggesting a Tallit symbolism. Our intrepid Bulletin editor decided to challenge me by asking Claude (the AI developed by Anthropic). Steve asked Claude what is meant by the wings of God.

Claude said: *The "wings of God" in the siddur is metaphor, not a literal description. Traditional Jewish theology, especially Maimonides, insists that God has no body, so wing language is understood as poetic imagery for protection, shelter, and closeness.*

The root image is a bird sheltering its young. The phrase "in the shadow of Your wings" (b'tzel k'nafecha) comes largely from Psalms (17, 36, 57, 63, 91). Deuteronomy 32:11 compares God to an eagle hovering over its nest, and Ruth 2:12 speaks of taking refuge "under the wings" of God.

Where you'll meet it in the siddur:

• Hashkiveinu, the evening blessing after the Shema, asks God to "shelter us in the shadow of Your wings." It's a prayer for safety through the night, when we're most vulnerable.

• El Malei Rachamim, the memorial prayer, asks that the soul be sheltered "in the cover of Your wings" forever. Here the image shifts from protection in danger to a final resting place.

• Psalm 36 (in the Shabbat and festival morning service) says that people take refuge in the shadow of God's wings, in the context of God's lovingkindness.

Related but different: the angels in Isaiah's vision (the seraphim, with six wings each) appear in the Kedushah and in the Yotzer blessings before the Shema. Those wings belong to the angels, not to God.

There's also a link to your earlier question. In rabbinic Hebrew, converting is often described as coming "under the wings of the Shechinah" (tachat kanfei haShechinah), the divine presence. So the image can also mean welcome into a community.

Steve suggests we make Claude a member. I don't think that will work, it won't count in the minyan. For a minyan, we need all of you. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in shul.

Speaking of looking forward, mark your calendar for Sunday December 6th. That is the planned date for our joint Chanukah party with Temple Beth David.

Have a happy Marcheshvan!
Leon

BHBI Website: www.BHBIRochester.org

BHBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Nov 1	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	Nov 6	6:00 PM	Shabbat in the Round, a musical service, with Temple Beth El upstairs in the TBE Foyer (light candles 4:38 PM)
Saturday	Nov 7	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Chayei Sarah *Kiddish with Temple Beth El following service*
Sunday	Nov 8	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Monday	Nov 9	7:30 PM	BHBI Board of Trustees Meeting on Zoom
Friday	Nov 13	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and livestreamed – see page 1 for further information (light candles 4:30 PM)
Saturday	Nov 14	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Toldot
Sunday	Nov 15	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	Nov 20	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and livestreamed – see page 1 for further information (light candles 4:24 PM)
Saturday	Nov 21	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayeitzei *Kiddish luncheon following service in BHBI's kiddish room*
Sunday	Nov 22	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link
Friday	Nov 27	6:00 PM	Erev Shabbat with Temple Beth El in the TBE chapel and livestreamed – see page 1 for further information (light candles 4:20 PM)
Saturday	Nov 28	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service at BHBI Torah: Vayishlach
Sunday	Nov 29	9:00 AM	Service live streamed, visit www.BHBIRochester.org for the Zoom link

THANK YOU TO OUR OCTOBER KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Esther and Hermann Vogelstein in memory of their mother Ingeborg Vogelstein

DONATIONS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Congratulations to Stephanie Bertman, daughter of Mark and Linda Bertman, on her engagement to Shayne Mogilski. Stephanie is the granddaughter of Irwin and Barbara Bertman, z"l

Jill Clark-Foulkes, Tyler Foulkes, and Renee Bertman-Hilton

HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

Ellen Franke Ira Cohen Alan Resnick David Rogachefsky Nat Goodhartz

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 here: https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

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.

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.

Nov 6-7	Cheshvan /Kislev	Nov 13-14	Kislev	Nov 20-21	Kislev	Nov 27-28	Kislev
Mary Jaffe*	28	Sam Morris*	4	Dr. Mark Blue	11	Edward M. Hart	19
Harvey Sanow*	28	Israel Schriba*	4	Wolf Schild*	12	Hyman Ring*	20
Fannie Stern*	28	Jacob Smilack*	4	Jack Soble*	14	Joseph Goldberg*	21
Abraham Friedman*	29	Dorothy Lewis Cohen*	5	Bernard Rodney	17	Ida Bobb	24
Rose Nidetz	30	Mark H. Keyfetz*	5			Emanuel Kovelski*	24
Charles Franke	2	Rachel Olkes*	6				
		Meyer Kovelski*	7				
		Fanny Titof	8			*Denotes name	
		Nathan Bernstein*	9			memorialized on	
		Beatryce Cohen*	9			BHBI Memorial	
		Joseph Louis Shapiro*	9			Plaque	
		Rose Walder	9				
		Rose Alderman*	10				
		Feist Hess*	10				
		Eleanor Teitel	10				

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.

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Saturday, November 7, at 7pm: An Evening with Keren Or: The Jerusalem Center for Blind Children with Multiple Disabilities. To register, click here. Location provided to those registered.

Monday, November 9, at 6:30pm: Community Kristallnacht Commemoration with Tova Friedman. Tickets $10. To register, click here. Location provided to those registered.

While our Bulletin comic strip is on vacation, we bring you this clip from the 1950s, showing little has changed over the years (except for the price of bagels). Ten Cents a Bagel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt99u_zKpi8

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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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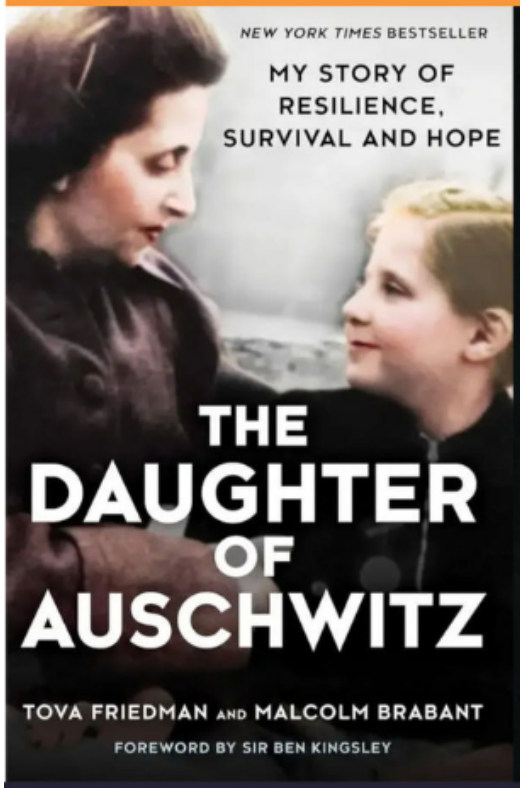
To register: https://www.keren-or.org/event-details/cafe-dilemma-what-would-you-do

To register: https://jewishfederationofgreaterroche.regfox.com/community-kristallnacht-commemoration-11926

1

Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester | Center for Advocacy and Education presents

COMMUNITY KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION with TOVA FRIEDMAN





Monday, November 9

Doors open 6.30 PM | Program 7.00 PM

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.

OPEN TO ALL 6TH GRADE AND UP.

Tickets $10 | Free for students

Location to be announced 24 hours prior to the event.

For more information contact Petra Anderson

585.241.8625 | panderson@jewishrochester.org

Jewish Federation® of Greater Rochester

THIS PROGRAM WAS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY **TERRI & HAROLD AND MICHAEL BOBRY.**



HANUKKAH PACKAGES FOR JEWISH SOLDIERS

Since 2008, the Jewish Soldiers Project has been sending care packages to Jews in the military for Hanukkah. The care packages include menorahs, candles, children's cards, gelt, dreidles, and baked goods to help the soldiers celebrate the Festival of Lights.

Home baked goods need not be kosher. Purchased kosher baked goods are accepted.

Baked Goods can be dropped at:

Temple B'rith Kodesh South Entrance

Sunday, 11/22/2026 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

Tax deductible donations can be sent to: The Jewish Soldiers Project, Inc. , c/o Judge Keith Freedman, 152 Green Meadow Drive, Rochester , N.Y. 14617

HOME/STORE BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR HANUKKAH PACKAGES SENT TO SOLDIERS

COOKIES, BROWNIES & CAKES

NO AMOUNT TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

TO BE COLLECTED BY SUNDAY 11/22/2026

JEWISH SOLDIERS PROJECT

KEITH FREEDMAN, CHAIR

152 Green Meadow Drive
Rochester, NY 14617

jewishsoldiersproject@gmail.com

Community Wide Project