

Bohorodczany (Brotchin) - Rabbis & Rebbes

Community: Bohorodchany (Brotchin)

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The first known rabbi of Bohorodchany is mentioned in 1720 and was Rabbi Shimshon Ha-Levi Heller, a son of Rabbi Avraham, a descendant of the famous Rabbi Yom-Tov Lipman Heller. His son, R. Meir, inherited his position and was mentioned as the Rabbi of Bohorodchany in 1750 ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72).

In the 1780s, another representative of the Heller family took a religious position in the Bohorodchany community. It was Rabbi [Avraham Noah Halevi Heller](#) (d. 1786), the son of Rabbi [Aharon Moshe Halevi Heller](#) (1740-1795) and brother of the founder of the Zbarazh Hasidic dynasty Rabbi [Meshulam Faivish Halevi Heller](#). After being a scholar in famous [kloyz in Brody](#) and serving as the rabbi of Dolina, he became the preacher (*magid meisharim*) in Bohorodchany in the last years of his life ([Alfasi](#), 1:179). He wrote the book [Zrizuta de-avraham](#), a commentary on the Torah and *Pirkei Avot* ([Piekarz, Be-yemei](#), 39, 168).

Around 1800, the Rabbi of Bohorodchany was R. [Yitzhak Frenkel](#) ([Wunder](#) 4:289).

In the first half of the nineteenth century, a grandson of the first Zbarazh *admor* Rabbi [Meshulam Faivish Halevi Heller](#), named after him, R. [Meshulam Faivish Heller](#) son of Barukh Yitshak (1800-1840), established his court in Bohorodchany. He was an important figure in the Hasidic world, a student of Rabbi Haim from Czernowitz, and the author of the book *Sfat Emet* which was published in 1880 in Kolomyia ([Alfasi](#) 1:168).

In the 1870s, the rabbi of Bohorodchany was Rabbi [Meir Hachohen Rapoport](#) (first mentioned in 1870) ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72).

He was succeeded by Rabbi [Uri Shruga \(Faivel\) Schreier](#). Rabbi Schreier was one of the most prominent adherents of Palestino-centric politics and of Zionism among Orthodox rabbis ([Gelber, Toldot](#), 1:347) and served as the rabbi of Bohorodchany until his death in 1898 ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72).

In the beginning of the 20th century, Rabbi [Hillel Langerman](#) served as a [moreh tzedek](#). He founded the yeshiva "[Torat Haim](#)" in 1905 ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72).

After the death of Rabbi Schreier, R. [Pinhas Halevi Horwitz](#) was elected to be the town's new rabbi in 1898. He also held pro-Zionist positions ([Ha-magid](#), no. 1, 5 January 1899, p. 5). Rabbi [Pinhas Halevi Horwitz](#) served as the rabbi and the head of the local yeshiva "[Torat Haim](#)" until his death in 1920 ([Ohalei Shem](#), 223-4; [Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72).

After the passing of Rabbi Horwitz in 1920, a dispute broke out over the succession process. This conflict was resolved only in 1927, after the arbitration of three rabbis from outside of Bohorodczany ([Pinkas Hakehilot](#), 72). For a period of time in the early 1920s the rabbi of Bohorodchany was R. [Nisan Haim Rosenbaum](#) from the [Kretshnef branch](#) of the Nadworna Hasidic dynasty; later he moved to Drohobycz ([Alfasi](#), 1:84, no. 63; [M. Hasten, Mark My Words](#), 6-7). The rabbinic post was then filled by Rabbi Nebenzal ([M. Hasten, Mark My Words](#), 6-7).

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