

Shabbat Update May 1, 2021

To rbessman@berchayim.org



Shabbat Update

May 1, 2021

Cantor Bessman's Shabbat Update



Dear BCT Membership,

We have Adult Hebrew tomorrow; Shabbat services will be May Day morning (note: no Friday night services). For this week's Shabbat Update, I am giving you a sneak preview of the May 2021 Bulletin—specifically, my column. It's reprinted in full below to ensure maximum readership:

As avid followers of the Shabbat Update, I'm sure that few of you are surprised upon hearing that the Temple is open to in-person



April Calendar of Events

*B'er Chayim
Temple is open for
in-person
services.
Some safeguards
will be in place.*

*ZOOM services
will continue*

services once again. Mask wearing and safe distancing are mandatory—sacrifices that we all know are temporary, the end within our sights. (Remember: services are and will remain accessible through Zoom.) Onegs are also in our not-too-distant future.

In addition to onegs at the Temple, we have other activities planned for the future—think springtime and summer. Snow is falling at the moment, so let's wait until the next paragraph to hear about some outside activities that are being considered. This month you are invited to tour Fez, Morocco, on May 23rd, 2021, at 11:00 am, from the comfort of your living room (with tour guide Moshe Gold). Mid-morning seems to be the preferred time.

Zoom fatigue has definitely set in. I hear about it from you, colleagues, therapists interviewed on the radio, and I definitely feel it myself. At the last board meeting, we started discussing congregational get-togethers that can take place safely. I heard how BCT had had Shabbat services, Havdalah services, and picnics in previous years all outside. Such outside activities sound perfect. Many of us haven't seen each other in over a year; many of us haven't met the congregation's spiritual leader ever. The time is near.

If I have been overly harsh on Zoom, I apologize to all its shareholders. Limitations notwithstanding, it does offer opportunities unseen before the internet age. Our touring of the Middle East is one example. Visiting other congregations around the world another. There is a wealth of Jewish-related activities available to us as never before—all the more meaningful in that we are a smaller congregation with fewer opportunities for Jewish engagement. Anyone interested in attending an excellent Jewish-oriented lecture series this summer—one that would not have been easily accessible before COVID-19—should consider the George L. Mosse/Lawrence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies' Twenty-First Annual Greenfield Summer Institute lecture series.

This year the title is Jews and Politics:

Thursday
April 29
7:30 pm
Adult Hebrew
ZOOM

Friday
April 30
NO EREV
SHABBAT
SERVICE

Saturday
May 1
10:00 am
Shabbat
Morning
Service



Yahrzeits for week ending

May 1, 2021
19 Iyar 5781

Esther Meyer
Richard Neff
Ben Schindler
Samuel
Yankelevitz
Minnie Levin
Rae Pariser
George Rothstein
Israel Schmitt
Harry S. Gerson
Seymour
Sallerson

America, Israel, Europe and takes place from July 19-22, 2021. It is hosted (on Zoom) by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have been to a few, and they were excellent. Parking became a problem, and sometimes, various chores, work, and other activities seemed more pressing. Usually, I was living elsewhere. Always I received their brochures and always I was sorry not to attend. This year I can and will. There are eight lectures over four days. Visit jewishstudies.wisc.edu. The cost is minimal. I will be going to four of the eight lectures for \$50. That will be enough Zoom for me.

We are doing some spring cleaning at the Temple. Rebecca and I are wading through a few mountains of books—books of scripture, commentary, prayer, Jewish education, Jewish interest, general non-fiction, fiction, the land of Israel, Zionism—you name it, we have it. Please feel free to stop by and see what you may want to add to your collection. Spring cleaning means that many books will not be around next fall, but don't worry about our library. We have enough extra books to share with you.

I'm looking forward to a beautiful summer in Cumberland filled with opportunities to meet temple congregants, Jews from other parts, a few hikes, and several bike rides.

Until then, I hope to see you at services,

Shabbat shalom,

Cantor Richard Bessman



and the recent
passing of
Sue Peskin



Happy Birthday

May 3

Elena Manasse
Audrey Litman
Eli Litman

May 4

Katy Pallik

May 5

Karina Yelin
Steve Wollett

May 7

Lisa Peskin
Alex DeShong
Sydney DeShong

May 15

Beshie Mandell

May 24

Tamar Clarke

May 27

Francine
Reynolds

May 29

Sylvan Feldstein

**Happy
Anniversary**

This Week's Torah Portion

Emor

אֵמֹר

Speak

Leviticus 21:1–24:23

SUMMARY

- Laws regulating the lives and sacrifices of the priests are presented. (21:1-22:33)
 - The set times of the Jewish calendar are named and described: the Sabbath, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the Pilgrimage Festivals of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. (23:1-44)
 - God commands the Israelites to bring clear olive oil for lighting the sanctuary menorah. The ingredients and placement of the displayed loaves of sanctuary bread are explained. (24:1-9)
 - Laws dealing with profanity, murder, and the maiming of others are outlined. (24:10-23)
-
-

May 27
Debbie & Chuck
Lang

share your birthday
and anniversaries
dates with our friends
and families...contact
info@berchayim.org



B'er Chayim
Contact
Information:

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rbessman@
berchayim.org

Rebecca Galliher
email:
admin@
berchayim.org

"Virtual" **instructions -**

*To watch on Zoom -
send an email to
admin@berchayim.org
and the ID and
Password will be
emailed back to you.
The ZOOM Id and
Password will be the
same each Friday
evening. Please
remember that Rebecca*

*is part time, leave
yourself enough time.*

*Following along in
prayerbooks for ZOOM
services:*

*Links for prayerbooks
are found on our website
(www.berchayim.org).
Those links will take you
to Mishkah T'Filah for
Shabbat Services.*

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