

Shabbat Update July 10, 2021

To rbessman@berchayim.org



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Cantor Bessman's Shabbat Update

Dear BCT Membership,

Who knows one? Passover references in the middle of summer may seem a little odd, but Echad Mi Yodea is strangely relevant to this week's parashah Matot-Masei. Numbers figure prominently, forty-two especially.

Few would guess that forty-two has such importance. One is obvious, as are three, four, five, seven, ten, twelve, and thirteen. The song fills in meaning for the less obvious numbers. Then we have eighteen that should be known to all. Chai is life, having a



July Calendar of Events

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

*ZOOM services
will continue*

numerical value of eighteen (chet plus yud); it is also the literal translation of Sh'mona Esrai, the core of daily prayer, with its nineteen-weekday blessings or its seven-Shabbat blessings. Numbers in Judaism can be fun.

Jumping to forty-two, we find the most significant number. In the secular world, it is known as the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything, found in the sequel to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams. In the Jewish world, it forms the basis for the powerful and revered Kabbalistic prayer Ana Beko'ach, built upon the forty-two-lettered name of God. Though it is not found in our Mishkan T'filah, it is included in the Kabbalat section of traditional siddurim before L'cha Dodi.

I never know what parts of the weekly Torah portion the editor of the Shabbat Update will highlight until its publication. Wednesday morning is the time I find out—a most exciting time. This week it may very well include a couple of forty-twos. The Torah outlines the journeys taken by the children of Israel from the end of their servitude in Egypt to the banks of the Jordan (you guessed it: forty-two). Forty-two is also forty-eight minus six, forty-eight being the total number of cities God granted the Levites less the six designated as cities of refuge.

There are other ways forty-two factors into Judaism, but for now, let's concentrate on the number two: sh'nai luchot habrit (two tablets of the covenant, from Echad Mi Yodea); and two days before Shabbat. Friday evening services begin at 7:30 pm.

Hope to see you there, and Shabbat Shalom,
Cantor Richard Bessman

This Week's Torah Portion

Thursday
July 8
Summer Break
from
Adult Hebrew &
Adult Education

Friday
July 9
7:30 pm
Erev Shabbat
Service
ZOOM &
In-Person



Yahrzeits for week ending

July 10, 2021
1 Av 5781

Miriam Goldie
Klawan
Rosalind Caplan
Sophia
Serebryanaya
Elly Gerson
Daymont
Rebecca Pariser
Morris D. Fram
Abraham H.
Lewine
Eva Rosenbaum
Julie Frey
Herschel Lange
Clarence Lippel
Max Silverman

Matot - Mas-ei

מטות - מסעי

The Tribes / The Marches of [the Israelites]

Numbers 30:2–36:13

Summary

- Moses explains to the Israelites the laws concerning vows made by men and women. (30:2–17)
- Israel wages war against the Midianites. (31:1–18)
- The laws regarding the spoils of war are outlined. (31:19–54)
- The tribes of Reuben and Gad are granted permission to stay on the east bank of the Jordan River. (32:1–42)
- The itinerary of the Israelites through the wilderness from Egypt to Jordan is delineated. (33:1-49)
- Moses tells Israel to remove the current inhabitants of the land that God will give them and to destroy their gods. (33:50-56)
- The boundaries of the Land of Israel are defined, along with those of the Levitical cities and the cities of refuge. (34:1-35:15)
- God makes a precise distinction between murder and manslaughter. (35:16-34)
- The laws of inheritance as they apply to Israelite women are delineated. (36:1-13)



Happy Birthday

July 5

Beth DeShong
Harry Haag

July 14

Russ Corwell

July 18

Faye Snow

July 27

George Beneman

July 30

Larry Hohing

Happy Anniversary

July 8

Leslie & Barney
Leibowitz

July 23

Lynne & Howard
Hansell

[share your birthday
and anniversaries
dates with our friends
and families...contact
info@berchayim.org](#)

B'er Chayim
Contact
Information:

Temple phone:
301-722-5688

Cantor Bessman
email:
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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B'er Chayim Congregation
The Book Center
107 Union Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

