
Shabbat Update August 14, 2021

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Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 6:00 AM



Shabbat Update

August 14, 2021

Cantor Bessman's Shabbat Update



Dear BCT Membership,

Shoftim (judges) is concerned with fundamentals of law, sacred and secular. "Justice, justice you shall pursue" is one of the more familiar five-word phrases that may be heard in Jewish circles. These words begin the third verse of this week's parashah, which ends with the carrot: "that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you



August Calendar of Events

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

(Deuteronomy 16:20).” The stick, we have seen on numerous occasions.

The pursuit of justice becomes a core Jewish value, the intricacies of which are explained at length in the Talmud. Nevertheless, many of the Biblical passages we read this week are stated with a self-evident meaning: bribery blinds the eyes of the wise (16:19); thoroughly investigate crimes (17:4); capital crimes require significant proof (17:6); respect the judgment of the court (17:11, for the court is just—as it answers to God, as should also the king (17:19-20)); and, you shall not pull back your neighbor’s landmark (thereby stealing land, 19:14). Then we come to an oft-repeated Old Testament trope: “You shall not have pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot (19:21).” Now, we do need the Talmud to help us explain. All the above is remarkable in that you may hear such concepts in today’s U.S. courtrooms. Well, maybe not so much the last phrase, though the Talmud makes clear that “eye for eye” is not literally a physical retribution, but financial compensation. This would be heard in the halls of justice.

In less than two weeks, we have the “welcome back” in-person weekend, outside in beautiful surroundings and fresh air. Shabbat Under the Stars at the Bel Air Pavilion takes place on Friday, August 20. Our congregational picnic is two days later, on Sunday, August 22, at Constitution Park. Hope to see you there.

This Friday, services are at the regular time (7:30 pm) and at the regular place (BCT and Zoom).

Shabbat shalom,

Cantor Richard Bessman

*ZOOM services
continue*

**Friday
August 13
7:30 pm
Erev Shabbat
Services
In person &
ZOOM**

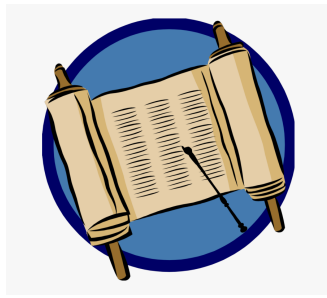
**Saturday
August 14
10:00 am
Torah Study**

**Friday
August 20
Shabbat Under
The Stars
7:30 pm
Bel Air Pavilion
with BYOD
(Bring Your
Own Dinner) at
6pm**

**Saturday
August 21
10:00 am
Torah Study**

**Sunday
August 22
4:30 pm
Annual
Congregational
Picnic
Location TBA**





This Week's Torah Portion

Shof'tim

שֹׁפְטִים

Judges

Deuteronomy 16:18–21:9

Summary

- Laws regarding both sacred and secular legislation are addressed. The Israelites are told that in every dealing they should pursue justice in order to merit the land that God is giving them. (16:18–18:8)
 - The people are warned to avoid sorcery and witchcraft, the abhorrent practices of their idolatrous neighbors. (18:9–22)
 - God tells them that should an Israelite unintentionally kill another, he may take sanctuary in any of three designated cities of refuge. (19:1–13)
 - Laws to be followed during times of peace and times of war are set forth. (19:14–21:9)
-



Yahrzeits for week ending

August 14, 2021
6 Elul 5781

Kurt Steinberger
Emma White
Robert Marchand
Lazar Platt
Scott Parness
Larry Cody
Morris Wolf
Mark Baker



Happy Birthday

August 1
Howard Pallik

August 2
Barbie Corwell
Lydia Savramis

August 6
Betsy Hurwitz
Schwab

August 8
Zak Andrews

August 18
Polly Jo

Hightower

8/19

**Howard Reynolds
Bruce Dubins**

8/24

Bebe Goldman

8/26

Lee Schwartz

8/28

**Nancy
Friedenberg**

8/31

David Pallik

8/31

**Judi Lazarus
Haag**

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



**B'er Chayim
Contact
Information:**

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301-722-5688**

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berchayim.org](mailto: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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