

Shabbat Update October 23, 2021

To rbessman@berchayim.org

Shabbat Update

October 23, 2021

Dear BCT Membership,

Kudos to last week's Friday night service leader, Debbie Lang. Once again she proved that she is a natural Chair for the Religious Committee. The delightful month of Marcheshvon continues this week with Parashat Vayeira. Abraham comes into his own, as he successfully petitions G-d to refrain from annihilating Sodom. Of course, the city was destroyed anyway, but Abraham was able to question G-d's resolve—and live. That would make for a heroic success in any book. This parashah reminds me of the warmer days of Cumberland, just a few short weeks ago. On Rosh Hashanah, we read from this portion, specifically Abraham and Sarah's differing treatments of their two sons. Few escape familial dysfunction so it seems; the Torah does not varnish truth, nor does it offer any apology. Human frailties are ever-present. G-d can be seen as a harsh judge, but one that listens, considers, and—at times—evolves.

Onegs are making a quiet comeback at B'er Chayim, albeit slowly and carefully. We begin this week with the temple providing wine (grape juice) and challah, and invite congregants to bring a snack for themselves as desired. We expect that anyone who stays after services will be vaccinated and virus-free

October Calendar of Events

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

*ZOOM services
continue*

**Thursday
October 21
7:30 pm
Adult Hebrew
In Person &
ZOOM**

**Friday
October 22
7:30 pm
Erev Shabbat
Service
In person &
ZOOM**

to the best of their knowledge. It is important to share our beautiful temple space in person once again. If we can accomplish this safely, temple closures should recede into the past.

I noted last week that November will begin with two congregational events. Both within a week of each other, both virtual. The first:

On Tuesday, November 2 at 7:00 pm, we are invited to attend a program sponsored by the Jewish Museum of Maryland. Located in Baltimore, the museum is reaching out to those of us in Western Maryland. The link:

[JMM on the Virtual Road link](#)

On Monday, November 8 at 7:00 pm, we have confirmed a (virtual) tour of the Jewish Museum exhibit titled, "Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art." To learn about the exhibit, visit

[Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art](#)

Unlike the previously-mentioned tour, this exhibit is not without cost; however, it will be for us thanks to a generous sponsor. Members, potential members, family, and other guests are all invited to come. Email Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab (bhs@9northcentre.com) if you would like to reserve a ZOOM ticket.

Tomorrow, Adult Hebrew continues. On Friday, October 15, join us for Shabbat evening services. 7:30 pm is the time for both (Zoom or in person).

Hope to see you at the oneg.

Shabbat shalom

Cantor Richard Bessman

Thursday
October 28
7:30 pm
Adult Hebrew
In person &
ZOOM

Friday
October 29
7:30 pm
Erev Shabbat
Service
In person &
ZOOM

Yahrzeits for week ending

October 23, 2021
13 Cheshvan
5782

George Castelle
Rabbi Meyer
Samberg
Lester Sallerson
Eleazer Abrams
Mary Gerson
Ethel Kroh
Gottesman
Frederick Leonard
Irving Rosenbaum
Lena Wesoky
Jeannette Shields
Boruch Stern
Boruch Lipson
Morris Lipson
Sarah Lichtenstein

and the recent
passing of
Maria Sallerson-
Joyner

This Week's Torah Portion



Vayeira

ויִרָא

**I (God) Appeared [to Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob]**

Genesis 18:1–22:24

Summary

- Abraham welcomes three visitors, who announce that Sarah will soon have a son. (18:1-15)
- Abraham argues with God about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (18:16-33)
- Lot's home is attacked by the people of Sodom. Lot and his two daughters escape as the cities are being destroyed. Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt. (19:1-29)
- Lot impregnates his daughters, and they bear children who become the founders of the nations Moab and Ammon. (19:30-38)
- Abimelech, king of Gerar, takes Sarah as his wife after Abraham claims that she is his sister. (20:1-18)
- Isaac is born, circumcised, and weaned. Hagar and her son, Ishmael, are sent away; an angel saves their lives. (21:1-21)
- God tests Abraham, instructing him to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah. (22:1-19)

Onegs are Back!!

As Cantor Bessman mentioned in his column, the B'er Chayim Board is officially reinstating

Happy Birthday

October 5

William Hirsch
Frank Shap
Debby Schaaf
Doug Schwab

October 18

Sue Arnson
Lynne Brodell
Hansell
Margie Hartman

October 20

Fred Klein

October 23

Bernice Friedland

October 25

Michael Sinclair

October 27

Louise Hall

Happy Anniversary

October 11

Betsey Hurwitz-
Schwab &
Doug Schwab

Katy & Howard
Pallik

October 13

Amy & Steve
Owens

October 19

Betsy Weisman &
Bill Hirsch

Onegs after our Shabbat services this week.

This first step is simple... the temple provides paper goods (of course), grape juice, and wine plus challah. Anyone attending is welcome to bring something to enjoy with that wine or juice, either just for yourself or enough to share. Just remember if you join in oneg socialization that you should be vaccinated.

Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art

You are invited to join the congregation on Monday, November 8 from 7 to 8 pm for a virtual tour of "Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art" from the Jewish Museum in New York.

"During World War II, untold numbers of artworks and pieces of cultural property were stolen by Nazi forces. After the war, an estimated one million artworks and 2.5 million books were recovered. Many more were destroyed. This exhibition chronicles the layered stories of the objects that survived, exploring the circumstances of their theft, their post-war rescue, and their afterlives in museums and private collections."

More about the exhibit can be found here:

[Afterlives: Recovering the lost stories of looted art](#)

This is sure to be a very interesting tour. To sign up for the tour and receive the Zoom link, please RSVP to Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab at bhs@9northcentre.com. We are able to host 50 people for the tour.

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

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, and 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.*

Manage Your Subscription

This message was sent to rbessman@berchayim.org from info@berchayim.org

B'er Chayim Congregation
The Book Center
107 Union Street
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