

Shabbat Update January 1, 2022

To rbessman@berchayim.org



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Dear BCT Membership,

This Friday, December 31, there is no Shabbat evening service; however, the next day is the first Saturday of the month—when our regularly-scheduled Shabbat morning service (10:00 am) takes place. A happy coincidence in a way: you can welcome the Shabbat Bride and sing Shalom Aleichem from the comfort of your homes, watch the ball drop, and still get plenty of rest for Shacharit. We are now in the second week of Shemot, and Va'eira is not a parashah you



January Calendar of Events

*B'er Chayim
Temple is open for
in-person
services.
Safeguards will be
in place -mask
wearing &
observing
safe distances*

ZOOM services

would want to miss. Blood is one thing, but fire-breathing ice is quite extraordinary (Exodus IX:24), well-predating George Lucas and CGI. Unfortunately, plagues are not limited to Biblical times.

The Cumberland Area Interfaith Ministerial Association met last week on Zoom. Its multi-denominational members encourage everyone to be fully vaccinated - notwithstanding medical exceptions—and cautious. We are able to make better choices than Pharaoh did for his people.

Adult Hebrew recently discovered that much of the liturgy associated with prayer is comprised of direct quotations from the Torah and Psalms. The siddur is carefully constructed, dense in meaning. We saw an example of this in the first part of the Torah service (Mishkan T'filah, p. 244). Lines 5-6 may consist of only eight words, but they are sourced from three different texts (Psalm 10:16; Psalm 96:10; and Exodus 15:18). Similarly, Mishkan T'filah provides sources to many other prayers at the bottom of its pages. Sermons can be dull; the siddur should not be so. During the next uninspired d'var, I encourage you to look at some of these notes.

Adult Education's "Aseret: The Big Ten" begins next week. Materials have been ordered, but it's not too late to get a set of your own, in digital or print form. Just visit [their website](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. It's never too late.

Shabbat Shalom and have a Happy New Year,

Cantor Richard Bessman

continue

Thursday
December 30
7:30 pm
Adult Hebrew
In Person &
ZOOM

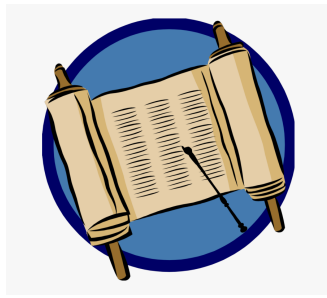
Friday
December 31
NO Erev
Shabbat Service

**HAPPY
SECULAR
NEW YEAR!!!**

Saturday
January 1
10:00 am
Shabbat
Service
In Person &
ZOOM

Thursday
January 6
7:00 - 7:45 pm
Adult Hebrew
7:45 - 8:30 pm
Adult Education
"Aseret - The
Big Ten"
ZOOM only

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



This Week's Torah Portion

Va-eira

וַאֲרָא

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

Exodus 6:2–9:35

Summary

- Despite God's message that they will be redeemed from slavery, the Israelites' spirits remain crushed. God instructs Moses and Aaron to deliver the Israelites from the land of Egypt. (6:2-13)
- The genealogy of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and their descendants is recorded. (6:14-25)
- Moses and Aaron perform a miracle with a snake and relate to Pharaoh God's message to let the Israelites leave Egypt. (7:8-13)
- The first seven plagues occur. God hardens Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh rescinds each offer to let the Israelites go. (7:14-9:35)



Yahrzeits for week ending

January 1, 2022
28 Tevet 5782

Max Feinstein

Freida D. Togut

Benjamin
Waingold

Catherine
Elizabeth Shofar

Joseph White

Ruth Baron

Simon Kline

Richard Elias
Schindler

Betty Stein

David S. Hurwitz

Sarah Lewine

Gertrude Schmitt

Jeanne D.
Newman

Richard Schwab

Paul Steinberger

Helena Sauer

and the recent

passing of
Steven Leibowitz



Happy Birthday

January 13
Gregg Schaaf
Robin Reddng

January 24
Deb Litman

January 26
Carol Granet

Happy Anniversary

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

Cantor Bessman
email:
rbessman@
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.*

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B'er Chayim Congregation
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