

# B'er Chayim Bulletin

December 2021

Chesvan-Kislev 5782

107 West Union Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502 301-722-5688



## From Cantor Bessman

Dear BCC Membership,

This bulletin shares a birthday with the Shabbat Update—today, Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Please note that December is strong right out of the gate. I hope everyone is prepared for tonight's community Hanukkah candle lighting and reception at the Gordon-Roberts House, 6:00 pm.

Yes, Hanukkah is early this year. We continue to enjoy the radiance of the menorah (before yielding to the lights of Christmas) by attending—just two days from now—our Hanukkah candle lighting and dinner at B'er Chayim Temple. Candle lighting is set for 6:30 pm, followed by dinner and Shabbat evening services at the regular 7:30 pm time. Freshly-made latkes are provided for all, courtesy of several chefs well-known to the region. Please bring your menorah from home—the more people who do, the more beautiful it should look. [We will be zooming the entire event for the unvaccinated or those who wish to tune in from afar. We want everyone to be included.]

Hanukkah is the primary focus for Jews worldwide at (secular) year's end. In Cumberland, we also attend the Annual Congregational Meeting (this year on Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 am). Both celebrate the continuation of Jewish life.

Speaking of year's end (i.e., 2021, *not* 5782), here is a review of the year that is soon to pass; we leave the board to focus on “resolutions” for the year yet to come. 2021 began as a continuation of 2020 with COVID stealing the better headlines. BCC's newest employee began the year having met congregants primarily through electronics (Zoom or phone), and services continued virtually. Our comfort with

Zoom led to our first congregational Tu b'Shevat seder and a well-attended Passover seder. Soon thereafter, the temple reopened for services with the implementation of carefully-considered safeguards. Hybrid in-person/Zoom services became the norm. Our membership enjoyed several congregational tours of Israel and visits to two stateside Jewish museums. Adult classes continued without pause until Zoom fatigue coincided with summer and travel freedoms enabled by increased vaccine distribution. Life returned to a bit of normal, but COVID remained(s?) the true director of programming. During the High Holy Days, our hybrid services proved that we could succeed in leading inspirational services despite the unending disruptions to life in general caused by the pandemic. *Onegs* began gingerly, as vaccinations increased. Soon we graduated to more cookies, cheese, and the occasional salad. Our Hanukkah party in two days and the congregational meeting in twelve is the culmination of a new comfort with indoor get-togethers.

Thanks to all who helped so much during this first full year of leadership change, most especially Bruce Dubins. I am fortunate to have experienced his warmth and to have benefitted from his guidance this past year. Fortunately, though soon-to-be past president, he will still be on the board. It is too soon to miss his expertise and humor. Also, many thanks to Rebecca Galliher for helping me become acclimated to the new world of Cumberland. She was and remains an invaluable local resource.

Chag Hanukkah Sameach and eventually Happy New Year (note, not “Shanah Tovah”—that's not for a while),

*Kol tuv* to all,

Cantor Richard Bessman



B'er Chayim is looking for a new administrative person to work in the office nine (9) hours per week. The person must have office experience and be able to work independently. If you are or you know someone who is interested, please contact Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab at [bhs@9northcentre.com](mailto:bhs@9northcentre.com).

**Ca\$h4Causes Reminder**  
 When sending payment for Martin's cards (Ca\$h4Causes fundraiser) please indicate the month for which you are paying. Thanks!



**Donations**

**Yahrzeits**

Donor	In memory of
Scott Learish	William Learish
Paul Snow	William Snow
Rae Brodell	Dr. Robert Brodell
Valerie Arch	Dr. Jack Arch
Tadd & Sandy Schwab	Lillian Holstein
Richard Bessman	Ghita Hill Bessman
George & Tina Beneman	Margaret G. Beneman
Louise Mirkin	Harold (Sonny) Hersch

**Condolences**

From the Congregation to Lynne Brodell & Howard Hansell for the loss of Rae Brodell

**Donation Acknowledgements**

B'er Chayim is extremely grateful for contributions received. When sending a donation to B'er Chayim, please include your name as you would like it to be listed in the bulletin. Thank you!

# December 2021



Thursday, December 2	7:00 pm	Adult Education
Friday, December 3	6:30 pm	Hannukah Candle Lighting, Dinner and Service
Thursday, December 9	7:30 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, December 10	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Thursday, December 16	7:30 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, December 17	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 18	10:00 am	Torah Study
Thursday, December 23	7:30 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, December 24	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Thursday, December 30	7:30 pm	Adult Hebrew



## We Remember

### *Yahrzeits for week ending December 4, 2021*

Rabbi William Rosenau  
Selma Berger  
Rose Greenberg  
Gertrude Mandell  
Hannah Friedberg Platt  
Barbara Siegel Schrier  
Sally Helen Kalet  
Sigmund Tanzer  
Israel Beerman  
Frank Harry Feld  
Florence Judith Lange  
Ruvim Valdman

### *Yahrzeits for week ending December 11, 2021*

Ida Greenbaum  
Adelaide Morton  
David Sigel  
Nosen David Waingold  
Mollie Lipsch  
Abe Feigus  
Bertram Friedland  
Moses Lippel  
Hilda Margolis  
Ida Gottlieb  
Jacob Dantzie  
Joseph Klawan  
Margaret B. Markley

### *Yahrzeits for week ending December 18, 2021*

Leo Brumberg  
Bernard Grolman  
Gustav Sauer  
Lillian Weinstein  
Bernard Friedland  
Betty Waingold  
Simon Rosenbaum  
Edith Becker  
Susan Conway Keating  
Lester Millenson

### *Yahrzeits for week ending December 25, 2021*

Carrie Peskin  
Herman White  
Annette Brock  
Beatrice Castelle Hirsch  
Samuel Hirsch  
Oscar Feldstein  
Betty Price  
Gustav Steinberger  
Anna Waingold

### *Yahrzeits for week ending January 1, 2021*

Max Feinstein  
Freida D. Togut  
Benjamin Waingold  
Catherine Elizabeth Shofer  
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



## Directory: Whom to Call

B'er Chayim Temple Office admin@berchayim.org	301-722-5688
Cantor Richard Bessman rbessman@berchayim.org	608-335-2361
President	Bruce Dubins 301-268-2425 dubinsbruce@yahoo.com
First Vice President	Gregg Schaaf 301-724-3360 schaafgregg@gmail.com
Second Vice President	Brian Lang 540-931-1910 bmlang1982@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Brock 301-729-8257
Recording Secretary	Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab 301-759-9385 bhs@9northcentre.com
Financial Secretary (Dues)	Debbie Lang 301-729-2042 dlang1@atlanticbb.net
Membership	Brian Lang 540-931-1910 bmlang1982@gmail.com
Plaques/Tree of Life Treasurer	Gayle Griffith 301-697-6664 (cell) 301-722-8345 (work)
Bulletin & Grocery Scrip	Temple Office 301-722-5688 admin@berchayim.org
Cemetery	Larry Brock 301-729-8257 lbrock@gapselfstorage.net

## Ways in Which You Can Help B'er Chayim

### Endowment Fund

Western Wall Memorial outside of sanctuary.  
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information.

### Yahrzeit Plaques

Cost of plaque - \$250  
Preparation of plaque – about 1 month.  
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information.

### Tree of Life/Memory Leaves

Cost of leaf - \$40 which includes engraving.  
Preparation of leaf – about 2 weeks.  
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information.

### Building Fund

Contributions may be given for general building use (subject to Board approval).  
Contact Debbie Lang for more information.

### Jane & Leonard Schwab Jewish Life Fund

This fund will be used to enhance Jewish life in the B'er Chayim community. Please make checks payable to the "Jane and Leonard Schwab Jewish Life Fund."

### eBay Fundraising Project

<https://www.ebay.com/str/berchayimtemple>

Do you have items you would like to sell on eBay with the proceeds benefitting B'er Chayim? Contact Larry Brock or Brian Lang for more information.

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Contact Cantor Bessman for more information.

