

**B'er Chayim Congregation <info@berchayim.org>**

12/14/2022 6:01 AM

Shabbat Update December 17 , 2022

To rbessman@berchayim.org



## Shabbat Update

### December 17, 2022



Dear BCC Membership,

Hanukkah begins Sunday night. No news there. Everyone should know about next Friday night's Hanukkah candle lighting/Shabbat service/potluck dinner and party (beginning at 6:00 pm in the vestry). You might not know that City Hall will be honoring the holiday by illuminating City Hall in blue and white for the first four nights. This gesture of solidarity is a first—thank you City of Cumberland and Mayor Raymond Morris.




---

### December Calendar of Events

*B'er Chayim  
Temple is open for  
in-person  
services.*

*ZOOM services  
continue*

Tomorrow, Adult Hebrew continues at 7:00 pm. Shabbat Evening services are at 7:30 pm Friday night and this month’s Torah Study is Saturday at 10:00 am. I hope we’ll get a chance to explore Vayeshev. Joseph begins the parashah as an abused brother (nothing new, biblically speaking) who prospers as Potiphar’s talented assistant with prison being his reward. Dreams are dreamt by many, and Tamar becomes a central player in the Davidic line through her conquest of Judah. Go Tamars!

Thus ends the regular Shabbat Update fare. For those unable to attend Sunday’s annual meeting, all proposed amendments to the constitution were passed, and several reports confirmed the health of BCT. Follows is from my report:

At last year’s annual meeting, we hoped for more in-temple events and participation as COVID’s disruptive forces waned. And that did happen, after a somewhat rocky start. Masking was an on-again, off-again thing for a while. Finally, it was more off than on. Hybrid services continue to enable everyone to attend.

Here is a review of the year soon to pass:

- Adult Education began its journey through the “Aseret: The Big Ten” series published by Chai Mitzvah. Students and teacher alike found it rewarding.
- Our second congregational Tu b’Shvat seder points to a continuing tradition at B’er Chayim. Having the seder in the vestry will be a welcome change this coming year.
- The Board generously provided a \$2,000 matching grant for donations to the World Union for Progressive Judaism’s Ukraine fund.
- The temple was open in time for “An American Pickle” in March, the first of two

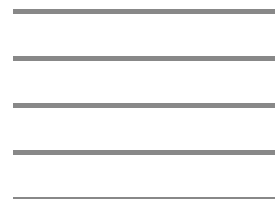
Thursday  
December 15  
7:00 pm  
Adult Hebrew

Friday  
December 16  
7:30 pm  
Erev Shabbat  
Service  
ZOOM &  
In-person

Saturday  
December 17  
10:00 am  
Torah Study

Thursday  
December 22  
7:00 pm  
Adult Hebrew

Friday  
December 23  
6:00 Shabbat  
Evening  
Services and  
Hanukkah  
Potluck/Party  
Bring your  
menorah and  
candles!!



cinematic treats.

- We had over 40 members and guests for the second night of Passover, sharing delicious food and song.
- In June, the first Friday evening service followed by potluck dinner took place.
- In association with Hagerstown's Congregation B'nai Abraham, we toured the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore before enjoying authentic Jewish deli cuisine.
- Weather was perfect in Lakewood for our late summer Shabbat morning service/luncheon.
- September also included the second Friday evening service/potluck (this time in beautiful Bel Air).
- Tashlich was missed last year, but we continued the High Holy Day ritual this year in LaVale.
- High Holy Day services were accessible to all—not only in the sanctuary and Zoom, but also in the sanctuary with our new TV/monitor and camera.
- Sukkah construction and crafts made for a busy Sunday morning in October.
- Adult Education, having finished the "Aseret" series, began a new series focusing on vocabulary of the Jewish people.
- At the close of Daylight Saving Time, Ken led a discussion of Gloria Hunter's "We Were the Lucky Ones."
- Second film of the year: "Crossing Delancey." Popcorn and pizza were again included.

Temple events we look forward to:

- B'er Chayim Book Club's discussion of



## Yahrzeits for week ending

### December 17

Jacob Dantzic

Joseph Klawan

Margaret B.  
Markley

Leo Brumberg

Milton J. Feldstein

Harold Goodman

Bernard Grolman

Lillian Weinstein

Harry Stein

Berrill Friedland

Alene Marks

Philip G. Miller

Ethel Mortkovitch

Betty Waingold

Simon  
Rosenbaum

Edith Becker

Susan Conway  
Keating

“Killing a King, the Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel” on a Sunday morning in February, TBD.

Of course, more temple happenings are being planned. The temple website (berchayim.org) continues to help members stay current. Several visitors have enjoyed services after learning about us through the website or from a chance stroll through historic downtown Cumberland.

Unfortunately, a congregational trip to Israel will not take place as planned. Numbers were against us. However, I discovered that Friendly Planet is a very pleasant company with which to arrange future travel; they are very professional and understanding.

My wishes are for continued participation and gatherings—religious and social—in the coming 2023 calendar year.

The above shows that activities are returning to B'er Chayim. Hope to see everyone soon and Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Richard Bessman



## This Week's Torah Portion

Vayeishev

וישב



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**12/13**

Nicole Manto

**12/29**

Steven Shapiro

**12/29**

Howard Hansell

**12/30**

Gayle Griffith

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**December 23**

Marilyn & Larry Brock



B'er Chayim  
Contact  
Information:

Temple phone:  
301-722-5688

## [Jacob] Settled

### Genesis 37:1–40:23

- Summary: Jacob is shown to favor his son Joseph, whom the other brothers resent. Joseph has dreams of grandeur. (Genesis 37:1-11)
- After Joseph's brothers had gone to tend the flocks in Shechem, Jacob sends Joseph to report on them. The brothers decide against murdering Joseph but instead sell him into slavery. After he is shown Joseph's coat of many colors, which had been dipped in the blood of a kid, Jacob is led to believe that Joseph has been killed by a beast. (Genesis 37:12-35)
- Tamar successively marries two of Judah's sons, each of whom dies. Judah does not permit her levirate marriage to his youngest son. She deceives Judah into impregnating her. (Genesis 38:1-30)
- God is with Joseph in Egypt until the wife of his master, Potiphar, accuses him of rape, whereupon Joseph is imprisoned. (Genesis 39:1-40:23)



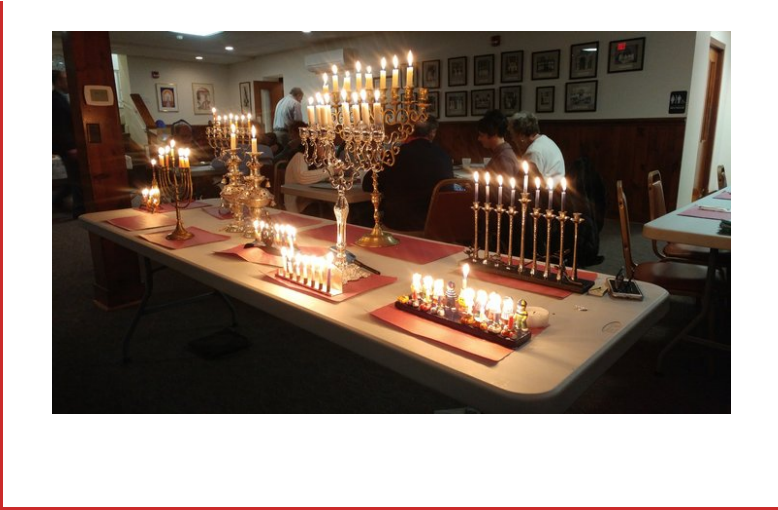
Cantor Bessman  
email:  
rbessman@  
berchayim.org

### "Virtual" instructions -

To watch on **Zoom** -  
send an email to  
[admin@berchayim.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:rbessman@berchayim.org) from [info@berchayim.org](mailto:info@berchayim.org)

B'er Chayim Congregation  
The Book Center  
107 Union Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502

