



Richard B <rbessman@gmail.com>

Shabbat Update for January 21, 2023

1 message

B'er Chayim Congregation <info@berchayim.org>
Reply-To: info@berchayim.org
To: rbessman@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 4:26 PM



Shabbat Update January 21, 2023



Dear BCT Membership,

Thank you Michael for leading us in prayer last Friday. Your d'var touched upon one of



January Calendar of Events

*B'er Chayim
Temple is open*

the apparent inconsistencies that a close reading of scripture produces. We see that the Lord has a complicated relationship with —of all people— Moshe Rabbeinu! It is not wise to fool with the One; fortunately, like fine California wine, Moses improves with age. Once again, a daughter of Eve saves the day through her innate understanding of how the rites of circumcision are not mere suggestions.

Blood to fiery hail (my personal favorite) bookends the seven plagues of Va'era. Another quandary arises for Torah readers as God hardens Pharaoh's heart causing (or inflicting?) untold hardship on the land, people, and property throughout Egypt. Narratives in Shemot and Va'era challenge us to accept a god whose complexities are legion. Surely we will encounter more difficulties—after all, we are only in the second week of the second book.

The Midwinter Retreat in Palm Springs has concluded. Because it coincided with the 76th Annual Convention of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, there was more talk of weather than usual (the rain was impressive). Participants heard some beautiful harmonies one would expect from a large group of cantors, and a bit of theology. It is clear that COVID has taken an emotional toll on both the religious professional and the congregant. All agree that meeting in person is an important goal.

The Board discussed several such meetings on Monday night. Shabbat, of course, is the primary time for communal gatherings. Starting in March, the service schedule is changing: Saturday morning services on the first and third Shabbats of the month. Many enjoy Friday nights at home and Saturday services at the temple.

This year's in-temple Tu B'shvat seder takes place on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 4:30 pm. We are planning to have the seder before dinner. Look for more details in the next Shabbat Update. The much-anticipated

*for
in-person
services.*

*ZOOM and
in-person
services
continue*

**Thursday
January 19
7:00 pm
Adult Education**

**Friday
January 20
7:30 pm
Erev Shabbat
Service**

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



**Yahrzeits for
week ending**

January 21

**Benjamin
Waingold**

**Joseph
Sonneborn**

Rachel Berman

meeting of BCC's book club is set for Sunday, February 19, at 10:30. We will meet in the vestry, or perhaps Cafe Mark.

Tomorrow, Biblical Hebrew continues at 7:00 pm. I'll be a bit rusty for services on Friday, so I'm counting on many to help. There will be no Torah reading, but there will be a sermon. Debbie Lang has been hankering for one, and this one has her name on it. Congratulations Debbie. Torah study takes place on Saturday morning at 10:00 am. Please come prepared with answers.

Shabbat Shalom,

Cantor Richard Bessman



This Week's Torah Portion

Va-eira

וַאֲרָאָה

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

Exodus 6:2–9:35

Summary:

- Despite God's message that they will be

Sarah G.
Bernstein

Betty Atkinson
FavreBetty Stein

Goldie Kaplon

Sarah Lewine

John Franklin
Atkins

L. Lee
Lichtenstein

Freda Vanetsky



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 13
Gregg Schaaf

January 13
Robin Redding

January 24
Deb Litman



B'er Chayim Contact

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)

Information:

Temple phone: 301-722-5688

Cantor Bessman
email: rbessman@berchayim.org

Office Assistant
Tal Cohen-Inbar
berchayim@gmail.com

"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
The Book Center
[107 Union Street](#)
Cumberland, MD 21502

