

שבת שלום

Shabbat Shalom

Friday, August 14, 2026 / 2 Elul 5786

Parshat Shoftim

Commemorating the Night
of the Murdered Yiddish Poets

לֹא-תִטֵּה מִשְׁפָּט לֹא תִכִּיר פָּנִים וְלֹא-תִקַּח שֹׁחַד כִּי הַשֹּׁחַד
יַעֲזֹר עֵינֵי חֲכָמִים וַיְסַלֵּף דְּבַרִּי צְדִיקִים

"You shall not judge unfairly: you shall show no partiality; you shall not take bribes, for bribes obscure the eyes of the discerning and upset the plea of the just. (Deuteronomy 16:19)

Service Leader: Rabbi Alana Krivo-Kaufman

Guest Speaker: Shane Baker

Ba'alei Tefillah: Cantor Sam Rosen and Larry Kay

Piano: Music Director Joyce Rosenzweig

Rabbi Yael Werber

Cantor Sam Rosen

Rabbi Marisa Elana James, Director of Social Justice Programming

Rabbi Alana Krivo-Kaufman, Engagement Rabbi

Joyce Rosenzweig, Music Director

Ivan Zimmerman, President

Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Senior Rabbi Emerita

Shabbat Shalom and Welcome to CBST!

Since our founding in 1973, CBST has been a center of joyful communal prayer, provocative words of Torah, and deep Jewish learning. Whether you are a newcomer tonight or have been a member of CBST for decades, believe in God or are questioning, identify as LGBTQ+ or as an ally, we welcome you.

In the current moment of political and social turmoil, gathering for Shabbat offers an opportunity to ground our busy lives. Making time for Shabbat is a radical reorientation of how we use our time, making space for beauty, spirituality, and joy.

In the words of our Senior Rabbi Emerita, Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, joy is an act of political and spiritual resistance.

-Rabbi Yael Werber and Cantor Sam Rosen

CBST Welcomes Our Hebrew Speaking Guests

ברוכים וברוכות הבאים לקהילת בית שמחת תורה! קהילת בית שמחת תורה מקיימת קשר רב שנים ועמוק עם ישראל, עם הבית הפתוח בירושלים לגאווה ולסובלנות ועם הקהילה הגאה בישראל. אנחנו מזמינים אתכם/ן לגלות יהדות ליבראלית גם בישראל! מצאו את המידע על קהילות רפורמיות המזמינות אתכם/ן לחגוג את סיפור החיים שלכן/ם בדף אינטרנט זה: reform.org.il/en. לפרטים נוספים ניתן לפנות לרב נועה סתת: noa.sattath@acri.org.il

At CBST, our goals to keep each other safe and healthy are deeply connected to the values underlying our tradition. We build a better world beginning with each other. CBST's Science and Medical Team asks that we rededicate to the practices that have served our community:

- If you have, or have recently recovered from, respiratory symptoms please do not attend in-person events. All services are livestreamed, and we will look forward to welcoming you back soon.
- People have different vulnerabilities. Your decision to wear a mask is respected at CBST.
- Please consider personal space by not automatically moving to embrace others, especially the clergy who interact with so many congregants.
- Keep up to date on vaccinations for Flu and COVID, remembering that we are in times of increased transmission.

Thanks to: Jason Zivic & Better Events Sound Technicians · Shabbat Donors
Livestream Chat, Sharon Golub · Jorge Loyola and the whole facilities staff
Welcoming Ushers and the Hospitality Team · CBST Staff · Security

Use of mobile phones and other devices with lighted screens in the sanctuary is distracting to those who come to pray. (This means you!) If you need to check your device, please step outside to do so. Photography and video are permitted only to those who have been given permission in advance of the service. Anyone who uses one of these devices in the sanctuary without prior permission will be asked to leave. And thank you for refraining from applause.

AUGUST 14, 2026 / 2 ELUL 5786
PARSHAT SHOFTIM
COMMEMORATING THE NIGHT OF THE MUDERDERED YIDDISH POETS

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**Arranged by Joyce Rosenzweig*

Shane Baker serves as Executive Director of the Congress for Jewish Culture, a Yiddish cultural organization. He has starred as Vladimir in his own Yiddish translation of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* into Yiddish, both internationally and Off Broadway. Recent New York includes Off Broadway runs of Avrom Sutzkever's *Night Stories* and Bashevis's *Demons*.



In English, he appeared in various versions of Jeff Weiss's *Hot Keys*, as well as Everett Quinton's stagings of Charles Ludlam's *Galas and Conquest of the Universe* or *When Queen's Collide*. In 2020 he received the Adrienne Cooper Dreaming in Yiddish Award. For more information visit www.CongressForJewishCulture.org

אָװגוסט / August

Izi Kharik (1898-1937)

August. I've come to the shtetl on a cool
Transparent evening. The dusk is blue.
A smiling poignancy ascends like smoke.
At dawn, the shtetl rises in a dew.

אָװגוסט. איך בין אין שטעטלע געקומען.
אין אָװגוסט קיל, און דורכזיכטיק, און בלוי,
צו אָװנט רייכערט זיך אַ שמייכלענדיקער אומעט
און פֿאַר טאָג גייט אויף דאָס שטעטלע אין טוי.

The air is clear and warm, down from the
heights
A luscious apple fragrance drifts.
The summer haze is airy, light,
And the heart turns dense and luscious, too.

ס'איז לופֿטיק-גרינג אין זומערדיקן געפֿל,
פֿון הייבן ווייט מיט וואָרעמקייט און ליכט,
סע שמעקט די לופֿט מיט וועניק-קלאָרע עפֿל
און אין האַרצן ווערט אויך וועניק און געדיכט...

Not long ago I cursed and railed at you,
And now, you lie before me, hushed.
I wander in a fume of fruit and blossom
And August lies transparent here, and cool.

איך האָב ניט לאַנג געשאַלטן און געפֿלוכט דיר,
ליגסטו איצטער, שטעטלע, פֿאַרשטילט...
גיי איך אַרום אין רויד פֿון צווייט און פֿרוכטן,
און אָװגוסט ליגט דאָ דורכזיכטיק און קיל.

August 1925

אױגוסט, 1925

In Yidishn Vort / In the Yiddish Word / אין יידישן וואָרט

Words: David Hofstein
Music: Emil Gorovets

In the Yiddish word, where it's wild,
where it's mild and precious,
There is such a call to renewal,
there is such a fire so blazingly bright,
That winds which draw upon world-wide
spaces cannot extinguish its glowing breath.
The ashes of ages cannot turn its tinder
to greyness,
Its sparkling tinder that glistens
in its blue stillness.

אין יידישן וואָרט, ווי ס'איז ווילד, ווי ס'איז מילד, ווי
ס'איז טייער,
אין פֿאַראַן אַזאָ רוף צו באַנענונג, אין פֿאַראַן אַזאָ
העלישער פֿייער,
אַז ווינטן וואָס ציען אויף וועלטשישע ברייטע באַראַטן,
ניט קענען פֿאַרבלאַזן זיין גליענדן אַטעם,
און אַשן פֿון תקופֿות ניט קענען זיין צונטער
פֿאַרגרויען,
זיין מונטערן צונטער, וואָס העלט זיך אויף שטילקייט
פֿון בלויען.

In the Yiddish word,
which is just fresh from the crucible.
The sure peace of the steppes is already
found, and epic vastness.
Not only from guardians,
but the word of simple keepers.
Already the proud singing of reapers is
heard.
Already the message of happy sounds
from the barn is heard --
In the Yiddish word where it's wild,
where it's mild and precious.

אין יידישן וואָרט, וואָס איז אַקערשט אַרויס פֿון די
צוואַנגען,
וואָס אומרויך זוכט זיך נאָך פֿעלדער און סטעפֿעס,
אין פֿאַראַן שוין די זיכערע רו און די ברייטקייט פֿון
עפֿאָס.
און ניט נאָר ביי הייליקע שומרים -- אין וואָרט ביי די
פשוטע היטערס,
הערט זיך דער אָנהייב פֿון שטאַלצע געזאַנגען פֿון
שניטערס,
הערט זיך דער אָנזאָג אויף מונטערע קלאַנגען פֿון שיער
--
אין יידישן וואָרט, ווי ס'איז ווילד, ווי ס'איז מילד, ווי
ס'איז טייער....

ikh bin a Yid / I am a Jew / איך בין א ייד

Words: Itsik Fefer
Music: Emil Gorovets

The generations-old wine has
strengthened me in my wanderings.
The angry sword of pain and sorrow
has not destroyed my treasure.

My people, my faith and my
flowering—it has not chained my
freedom. From under the sword I've
cried out:
I am a Jew!

The clever twists of Rabbi Akiva,
the wisdom of Isaiah's words
nourished my thirst and my love,
and fought against hate.

The zest of the Maccabbean heroes
and Bar Kokhba's blood boils in
mine. From all the burnings at the
stake I've cried out:
I am a Jew!

דער וויינ פֿון דורות־דיקן דויער
האַט מיר געשטאַרקט אין וואַנדערונגען,
די בייזע שווערד פֿון פּאַין און טרויער
האַט נישט פֿאַרניכטעט מײַן פֿאַרמעג.

מײַן פֿאָלק, מײַן גלויבן און מײַן בליען,
זי האָט מײַן פֿרײַהייט נישט געשמידט.
פֿון אונטער שווערד האָב איך געשרייען:
איך בין א ייד!

דער קלוגער קניישט פֿון רב עקיבֿא,
די חכמה פֿון ישעיהס וואָרט
האַבן גענערט מײַן דורשט, מײַן ליבע
און זי מיט האָס צונויפֿגעפֿאַרט.

דער שווינג פֿון מכביער העלדן,
בר־כוכבאס בלוט אין מענעס זידט,
פֿון אַלע שטערס פֿלעג איך מעלדן:
איך בין א ייד!

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 5787



**CBST's Book of Remembrance is a special way to honor those
of blessed memory and bring them into our beloved spiritual
community. This book is distributed during Yizkor on Yom
Kippur and throughout the year.**

**Submissions to the Book of Remembrance are due Wednesday,
August 19, 5:00pm.**

Submit at cbst.org/hhd



Tonight, we remember the Jewish writers, poets, artists, musicians, and actors executed 70 years ago today on August 12, 1952, in the Lubianka Prison in Moscow. Some were survivors of the 400 Jewish artists rounded up with their families in the winter of 1948-49 and banished to the gulag, where many perished in labor camps. No word of the August 1952 massacre reached the world until after Stalin's death three years later, when the full implication of that dark day finally became clear.

Izi Charik (1898—1937) was born in Zembin, Belarus, and began publishing Yiddish poetry in 1920. His most important contribution to Soviet Jewish literature, the pessimistic narrative poem “Mit Layb un Lebn” (“With Body and Soul,” 1928), portrays the life of the Soviet Jewish intelligentsia through the eyes of a young Jewish teacher whose grand hopes for rebuilding the shtetl are ultimately dashed. In June 1937, at the peak of his career, he was arrested and killed later that year, as part of the Great Purges that decimated the Soviet cultural elite.

Itsik Fefer (1900—1952) was born in Shpola, Ukraine. During WWII, he was a military reporter and was vice chairman of the Soviet Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAC). He and Solomon Mikhoels (artistic director of the Moscow State Jewish Theater and chairman of the JAC) traveled to the United States in 1943. In 1948, after the assassination of Mikhoels, Fefer, along with other JAC members, was arrested and accused of treason. Fefer reportedly cooperated with the investigation, providing false information that would lead to the arrest and indictment of over a hundred people, but at the trial, he made openly nationalistic statements and expressed pride in his Jewish identity.

Shmuel Halkin (1897-1960) was born in Rogachev, eastern Belorussia, Shmuel Halkin was a cousin of the brothers Shimon Halkin, a Hebrew poet, and Abraham Halkin, a historian and Arabist. The youngest of nine children, Shmuel was educated by his elder brother, an enthusiast of Hebrew and Russian literature. Halkin's poetry appeared in leading Soviet Yiddish periodicals, and he was characterized by the prominent Communist critic Moyshe Litvakov as a “deeply Sovietized national poet.” In 1949, he was arrested following the prosecution of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. Halkin aspired to clarity and perfection of form and shied away both from avant-garde experiment and proletarian populism, showing little nostalgia for the shtetl but often invoking folkloric themes and motifs. One of the most erudite of Soviet Yiddish poets, he incorporated into his poetry images and themes from the Bible, the Talmud, Kabbalah, and Hasidism, which he represented as universal symbols and metaphors. The leading Yiddish poet Avrom Sutzkever praised Halkin for his aesthetic perfectionism, which expressed itself in the “measured balance of the word and expression”; according to the American critic Nakhmen Mayzel, Halkin was “one of the most complex and sophisticated, deepest and most Jewish Soviet Yiddish poets.”

Moyshe Kulbak (1896-1956) was born in Smorgon, Vilna Province of the Russian Empire on March 20, 1896. The small town had a legendary status among the Jews of the area. As a boy, Kulbak took afternoon classes in a reformed kheder and spent the first part of the day studied in the Crown Jewish Folkschool. During his brief time at Volozhin, Kulbak became strongly influenced by the ideas of Ahad Ha-Am, who advocated the rebirth of Jewish culture through a revival of Hebrew literature and language. But his time at the yeshiva was cut short, interrupted by the outbreak of the World War. Forced to return to his parents' home, Kulbak devoted himself to reading and continued to perfect his Hebrew, as well. In the fall of 1916, he submitted two poems to the editors of the Vilna's לעצטע נייעס (Latest News), among them was Zalmen Reyzen, who published the poem "שטערנדל (Little Star)" in his literary journal. The poem, written in a folk style, was the prayer of a Jewish soldier, separated from his family and his hometown while stationed at the front. "Shterndl" was set to music and became extremely popular, so much so that it was often credited in various publications as an anonymous folksong. (from yiddishkeyt.org)

Peretz Markish (1895–1952), who was born in Polonnoye, Ukraine, was a Yiddish poet and novelist whose work extols Soviet Russia and mourns the destruction of European Jews in WWII. Markish joined several writers in producing modernist Yiddish poetry that championed the Russian Revolution of 1917. His novel Dor Oys, Dor Ayn ("Generation After Generation," 1929), about the genesis of revolution in a small Jewish town, was condemned for "Jewish chauvinism." Awarded the Order of Lenin in 1939, he wrote several paeans to Joseph Stalin, including the epic poem Milkhome ("War," 1948). In 1948, Markish was arrested, jailed, and tortured. He was shot along with many of his fellow writers in 1952.

Leib Kvitko (1890–1952) was an author of well-known children's poems and a member of the JAC. He was one of the editors of Eynikeyt (the JAC's newspaper) and of the Heymland, a literary magazine. He was born in a Ukrainian shtetl and attended traditional Jewish religious school for boys. He moved to Kiev in 1917 and soon became one of the leading Yiddish poets of the "Kiev group." He lived in Germany between 1921 and 1925, joining the Communist Party of Germany and publishing critically acclaimed poetry. He returned to the Former Soviet Union in 1925 and moved to Moscow in 1936.

Remembering all the Murdered Yiddish Poets, Artists, and Academics

Peretz Markish (1895—1952): Yiddish poet, co-founder the School of Writers, a Yiddish literary school in Soviet Russia

David Hofstein (1889—1952): Yiddish poet

Itsik Fefer (1900—1952): Yiddish poet, informer for the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Leib Kvitko (1890—1952): Yiddish poet and children's writer

David Bergelson (1884—1952): Distinguished novelist

Solomon Lozovsky (1878—1952): Director of Soviet Information Bureau, Deputy Commissar of Foreign Affairs, vigorously denounced accusations against himself and others; an Old Bolshevik.

Boris Shimeliovich (1892—1952): Medical Director of the Botkin Clinical Hospital, Moscow

Benjamin Zuskin (1899—1952): Assistant to and successor of Solomon Mikhoels as director of the Moscow State Jewish Theater

Joseph Yuzefovich (1890—1952): Researcher at the Institute of History, Soviet Academy of Sciences, trade union leader

Leon Talmy (1893—1952): Translator, journalist, former member of the Communist Party USA

Ilya Vatenberg (1887—1952): Translator and editor of Eynikeyt, newspaper of the JAC; Labor Zionist leader in Austria and U.S. before returning to the USSR in 1933

Chaika Vatenberg-Ostrovskaya (1901—1952): Wife of Ilya Vatenberg, translator at JAC

Emilia Teumin (1905—1952): Deputy editor of the Diplomatic Dictionary; editor, International Division, Soviet Information Bureau

Solomon Bregman (1895—1953): Deputy Commissar of Foreign Affairs. Fell into a coma after denouncing the trial and died in prison five months after the executions; an Old Bolshevik.

Lina Stern (1875—1968): Biochemist, physiologist, and humanist and the first female academician in the Russian Academy of Sciences. She is best known for her pioneering work on the blood-brain barrier. She was the only survivor out of the 15 defendants.

Some who were either directly or indirectly connected to the JAC at the time were also arrested in the years surrounding the trial.

Although Solomon Mikhoels (1890—1948) was not arrested, his death was ordered by Stalin in 1948. Der Nister (1884—1950), another Yiddish writer, was arrested in 1949, and died in a labor camp in 1950. Literary critic Yitzhak Nusinov (1889—1952) died in prison and journalists Shmuel Persov (1890—1950) and Miriam Zheleznova were shot—both in 1950.

PRAYER for OUR COUNTRY

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen

Our God and God of our ancestors,
bless this country and all who dwell within it.
Help us to experience the blessings of our lives and circumstances,
To be vigilant, compassionate, and brave.
Strengthen us when we are afraid,
Help us to channel our anger, so that it motivates us to action.
Help us to feel our fear, so that we do not become numb.
Help us to be generous with others, so that we raise each other up.
Help us to be humble in our fear,
knowing that as vulnerable as we feel,
there are those at greater risk, and
that it is our holy work to stand with them.
Help us to taste the sweetness of liberty,
To not take for granted the freedoms won
in generations past or in recent days.
To heal and nourish our democracy,
that it may be like a tree planted by the water
whose roots reach down to the stream;
it need not fear drought when it comes,
its leaves are always green (Jeremiah 17:8).

PRAYER for PEACE

Avinu Shebashamayim, our loving Guardian in Heaven, our
Rock and Redeemer, bless and protect the land of Israel and
all who dwell within it. We urgently pray that those in need of
healing in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and the whole region,
those under fire and facing loss, will one day live in safety
and abundance and wholeness, in body and in spirit.

We pray to see the day when Israelis and Palestinians – Jews
and Christians and Muslims – will dwell under their fig trees
and grapevines, whether in Tel Aviv, in Ramallah, or in Gaza
City, and no one will make them afraid. May there be no
more death, no more senseless loss, for Israelis or
Palestinians. May there be safety, justice, self-determination,
hope, and a healthy future for all, *b'karov u'v'yameinu*,
speedily and in our days. And let us say amen.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH – HEALING PRAYERS

Tarlochan Bahrey
Robert Fink
Elise Fischer
Caroline Furry
Edith Golub
Charles Jefferson
Alix Kucker
Veda O. Luftig
Leslie Molomot

Susan Meyer
Rachael Monaco
Aharon Moshe ben
Chaya Liba
Talia Shane bat Rinah
Corinne Servily
Linda Solomon
Richard ben Rose
Shep Wahnon

This list is for those with acute illness. Any person may submit one name for one-month inclusion. We only print names of people who have given consent. You may say any name aloud during the healing prayer. If you or a CBST member you know is ill and would like support, contact info@cbst.org. We are here for you.

YORTZEITS

1 Elul to 7 Elul

Members memorialized on the Wine Family Sanctuary Memorial Wall

Stephen H. Altman
Scott Barrack
Bruce Brumberg
Hilliard Goldman

Margot Karle
Melvin Rosen
Harold Sadowsky
Bruce Skolnick

Family & Friends memorialized on the Kuriel Chapel Memorial Wall

Ruth Black
Bert Brown
Michael Dominick
DeStefano
Steven Charles Feinman
Fay Goldberg
Gertrude Kershon
Neal F. Kessman

Bernd Linder
Miles Ludvigsen
Barbara G. Meranze
Rachel Levy-Harush
Mizrachi
Fay Shaw
Max Solomon
Sylvia Simchat Stoll

The CBST community extends condolences to mourners among us:

CBST members **Marilu Simon** and **Julie Simon** on the death of their wife and mother, Judy Zimmerman, ז"ל, who died today, August 14.

May the Holy One comfort all who mourn.

SPONSORSHIPS

TONIGHT'S LIVESTREAM

Underwritten by

Alton Bader, who has generously and consistently supported CBST's Livestream.

Sponsored by

Barbara Dolgin and Hanna Gafni, in memory of Barbara's childhood friend who introduced her to CBST 30 years ago.

Jay Fischer and Michael Lehrman who generously support CBST's Livestream.

Supported by

Bobbie Hand, in memory of Itche Goldberg, z"l, who first told me about the murdered poets. He is missed.

Linda Solomon and Bonnie Siegel are pleased to support tonight's livestream.

TONIGHT'S ONEG

Sponsored by

Lewis Goldstein, remembering my mom on her 59th yortzeit. Seems like yesterday. Remembering her with vegan food in honor of her commitment to all living creatures.

Supported by

Doug Edelson, in exuberant celebration of my upcoming retirement on 8/17. Career highlights included publishing original scholarly research on Courbet and raising \$65+ million for progressive causes. Time for the next chapter!

Rick Landman remembers Elsie Oettinger, z"l, his Oma's 28th Yortzeit this week. She was the niece of Helene Kramer, a socially devoted German Feminist.

Mark Black and Glen Leiner, remembering Ruth Black, z"l, on her 26th yortzeit. She loved people and made friends everywhere she went.

SOMETHING MAGICAL HAPPENS WHEN YOU JOIN CBST!

It's always a great time to join or renew your membership at CBST

CONNECT WITH US:

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cbst.org/membership
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