

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

January 2020 / Tevet- Sh'vat 5780



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
Blacksburg, VA 24063 (540) 300-BJCC
Web site: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

SERVICES

Jan. 4–Vayigash–Conservative–M&S Kranowski

Jan. 11–Vayechi–Reform–E. Hallerman

Jan. 18–Shemot–Reform–R. Scheckler**

**Potluck lunch today

Jan. 25–Vaera–Reform–S&M Kranowski

POTLUCK LUNCH, JAN. 18

On Jan. 18, we'll hold our regular potluck lunch after services (about 11:30 AM). Please bring a dairy or veggie dish to share.



SHOFAR DEADLINE, JAN. 24

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Jan. 24. Send information to Richard at richard @ vt.edu.

DAN HINDMAN'S BAR MITZVAH PICTURES

Daniel Hindman was called to the Torah on Dec. 7. Here are some pictures of the happy event. Mazel Tov, Mr. President-elect!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I am writing this, final exams are finishing up at Blacksburg High School and at Virginia Tech, and I'm looking forward to a pretty quiet next couple of weeks. Chanukah is late this year, falling over the week of Dec. 22-30 and giving us the opportunity to celebrate it with our extended families (without the pressure of work and school). So, I hope that you will have a chance to get together with your loved ones, eat well, stay warm, and maybe have some fun outside. As for me, I'm planning to get in some long bicycle rides before the students return to Virginia Tech on Jan. 21. So, if you happen see a cyclist struggling up one of the hills around town, please be patient and share the road.

We've also got a couple of activities coming up in January. Our monthly potluck is on Sat., Jan. 18, and Hillel at Virginia Tech will be screening "Israel Love Story" at the Lyric Theatre on Sat. Jan. 25 (at 2:00 PM) as part of its Jewish Film Festival. I hope to see you there.

Shalom, Aaron Goldstein, BJCC President



Some BJCC friends attending Dan's Bar-Mitzvah ceremony. Missing from picture: Eric, Ester, and Richard

PJ LIBRARY—A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE FOR OUR KIDS!



PJ Library is a wonderful program that provides free monthly books to families rearing Jewish children. The BJCC is the partner organization for PJL in the New River Valley.

PJ Library has a program for grandparents of children who are currently PJ Library subscribers. Grandparents can receive age-appropriate books to have at home when grandchildren visit. See https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community?utm_source=HowPJWorks&utm_medium=Website&utm_campaign=PJ%20Home

Parents who are rearing Jewish children can register their children for a free, age-appropriate book that will arrive each month. Children ages 6 months to 8 years can be registered here:

https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community?utm_source=HowPJWorks&utm_medium=Website&utm_campaign=PJ%20Home

Children ages 9-12 can register to choose a free chapter book (and sometimes music) each month from a curated, age-appropriate list. Registration can be done on line through PJ Our Way. The book is selected one month and arrives the next. Sign up here:

https://pjourway.org/?utm_source=pjhomepage&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=PJLibrary&utm_content=How%20PJ%20Works

Families who are current PJ Library subscribers can apply for grants of \$100 from PJJ for a “Get Together with friends to do something Jewish” event! Families in our community have received grants for a Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast and dinner in the Sukkah. With Purim and Passover around the corner, think about how you might celebrate with other families and apply for a Get Together grant!

For more information about any PJJ programs, contact Suzan Antin (suzan_antin @ yahoo.com).



THANK FOR THE DONATIONS

In honor of Dan Hindman's Bar Mitzvah

Suzan and Jon Antin
Susan and Mark Cramer
Marcia and Larry Shumsky

For general needs

Henry Hallerman
Rita and Brad Klein

For building security

Lynda Chamowitz

For High Holidays:

Nitza Kats
Lynda Chamowitz
Suzan and Jon Antin
Sheldon and Elinor Rosenbaum

In Memory of Ira Matthew Klein

Claire S. Klein
Rita and Brad Klein

Memorial Plaque

Linda R. Deemer
Doris and Richard Zallen

Tzedakah BJCC Sponsorship of 2019 NAACP

Freedom Fund Banquet

Linda R. Deemer
Marta and David Brinberg
Nicole and Gil Hersch
Ruth Grene
Aaron Goldstein and Jenny Lo
Rhea Epstein and Al Kornhauser

Tzedakah BJCC Sponsorship of Blacksburg

Interfaith Food Pantry

Pam and Dan Sable
Rita and Brad Klein

As a reminder, you can make donations to the BJCC by check (mailed to BJCC, Attn: Steve Scheckler, PO Box 782, Blacksburg VA 24063) or online on our website, www.bjccblacksburg.org. See next item for a neat way to make a donation.

TAX DEDUCTION SUGGESTION FOR DONATIONS

If you have some appreciated stock or mutual fund shares that you would like to give to the BJCC, here's an approach that can benefit everyone. Instead of selling the securities and giving the proceeds to the BJCC, you can donate them directly to the BJCC and allow us to sell them. The BJCC gets the same amount as a contribution, but you benefit by not having to pay capital gains taxes. Moreover, the value of your gift (not your cost) is used to calculate your charitable gift contribution when you determine your income taxes. You therefore get a larger deduction and pay no capital gains taxes.



Suppose you bought 100 shares in XYZ Company years ago for \$20 per share. The value today is \$50 per share. If you sold the stock, you would receive \$5,000, but you would have to pay capital gains tax of about 20% (\$600) on the profit. Hence, you would net only \$4,400 for your contribution and get a deduction for that amount when you gave it to the BJCC. But if you donated the appreciated stock before selling it, the BJCC would get the full \$5,000, and you could take a deduction of the \$5,000 as well, while never paying capital gains tax. Everyone wins!

If you are considering such a gift, contact Treasurer Steve Scheckler as well as your tax advisor.

HILLEL NEWS

See the Hillel calendar, and obtain more info at <http://hillelatvirginiatech.com>.

Here's an example:

January 2020 / Tevet-Sh'vat 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4 Tevet	2 5 Tevet	3 6 Tevet	4 7 Tevet Parashat Vayigash Conservative service
5 8 Tevet	6 9 Tevet	7 10 Tevet	8 11 Tevet	9 12 Tevet	10 13 Tevet	11 14 Tevet Parashat Vayechi Reform service
12 15 Tevet	13 16 Tevet	14 17 Tevet	15 18 Tevet	16 19 Tevet	17 20 Tevet	18 21 Tevet Parashat Shemot Reform service and potluck lunch
19 22 Tevet	20 23 Tevet	21 24 Tevet	22 25 Tevet	23 26 Tevet	24 27 Tevet Deadline to submit info for Feb. <i>Shofar</i>	25 28 Tevet Parashat Vaera Reform service
26 29 Tevet	27 1 Sh'vat Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	28 2 Sh'vat	29 3 Sh'vat	30 4 Sh'vat	31 5 Sh'vat	

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2019-20

(These email addresses are being protected against automatic spamming with a space before and after the @ sign. If you use one of these addresses, be sure to key it without the spaces.)

President	Aaron Goldstein	goldst @ vt.edu
President-elect (V.P.)	Dan Hindman	dhindman @ vt.edu
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	Linda Deemer	lrdeemer @ comcast.net
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Social Co-Chairs	Ruth Grene	greneruth @ gmail.com
	Open	
Building Chair	Open	
Culture Chair	Open	
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	Cindy Rosenbaum	cbrosenb @ hotmail.com
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	Open	
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