

# THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

March 2020 / Adar-Nisan 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](http://www.bjccblacksburg.org)



## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

### SERVICES

Mar. 7–Tetzaveh–Reform–S&M Kranowski

Mar. 14–Ki Tissa–Reform–E. Hallerman

Mar. 21–Vayakhel–Pekudei –Reform–R. Scheckler

Mar. 28–Vayikra–Conservative–M&S Kranowski

### PURIM CARNIVAL, SUN., MAR. 8

Time: Sun., Mar. 8, 5:00-7:00 PM

Please join us for an evening Purim Carnival at the Blacksburg Community Center. Activities will include a cake walk, a hamentashen contest, games, a costume competition for children and adults, and crafts making. Prizes will be awarded, and pizza will be served. Please bring donations to use as prizes, such as gently used toys, along with a sweet-tasting food for the cake walk. Also, if you can volunteer at this fun event, let Wendy know by email:

[wssilverman @ gmail.com](mailto:wssilverman@gmail.com).

Please RSVP to Wendy so she can order enough pizza for the event.



### SPECIAL VISIT BY RABBI PURSER, MAR. 12

We are happy to welcome Rabbi Jama Purser, from Beth Israel Synagogue, who will speak at the BJCC on “J(oy) as a Form of Spiritual Resistance,” Thurs., Mar. 12 at 7:00 PM. Rabbi Purser is a 2018 graduate of Jewish Theological Seminary (NY), where she was an Academic Crown Scholar. Before her rabbinical studies, which included clinical pastoral care, Rabbi Purser was a physical therapist and epidemiologist. She also worked as an Assistant Professor at Duke University Medical Center in the Division of Geriatrics, and she served as a Senior Fellow in Duke’s Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. Please come to welcome and learn with Rabbi Purser.

### PRESIDENT’S CORNER

I got an optimistic fortune cookie this past week: “Nothing is a waste of time if you learn something from it.” I think this idea is important to both the young and the old. When we were kids, my sister and I would scream “we’re bored,” but on reflection I think this was borne from an expectation that external events would stimulate our minds. Mundane tasks that had to be performed every day simply weren’t interesting. It wasn’t until college that I found fascinating things going on all around me; I just had to see them. Now, forty years later, I find myself doing the same tasks day after day, and they can lull my brain into autopilot when I go through the same motions, react the same way to situations, and perhaps repeat the same mistakes. Here, I think the fortune cookie’s advice is to look at what we are doing—the good, the bad, and the mundane—and ask ourselves how can we do such activities better.

On a lighter note, we’ve got a few fun activities coming up this month. Although we won’t enjoy a monthly potluck lunch in March, we will be having a Purim Carnival on Sun., Mar. 8 at the Blacksburg Recreation Center. This is a family event for children of all ages. In addition, Rabbi Jama Purser will be engaging with our members with a presentation on “J(oy) as a Form of Spiritual Resistance” on Thurs., Mar. 12 at the BJCC. Lastly, we plan to plant trees along Stroubles Creek on Mar. 15. See more details nearby, and I hope you can make it out to all of these events!

Shalom, Aaron Goldstein, BJCC President

## TREE PLANTING: A UNIQUE TZEDAKA PROJECT, MAR. 15

The planting and care of trees has always been an important part of Jewish life. Adults and children, join us on Mar. 15, at 10:30 AM, to assist Nicole Hersch with a sustainability project by planting trees along Stroubles Creek. Nicole will be sending you an electronic invitation (through evite). Please respond to it quickly so that we know how many helpers we will have, how many seedlings to order, and how much food to bring for snacks. This will be a wonderful mitzvah—to improve our environment and contribute to the Blacksburg community. Thanks from Linda Deemer, Tzedaka Committee Co-Chair.

## SHOFAR DEADLINE, MAR. 25

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Mar. 25. Send information to Richard at richard @ vt.edu.

## THANKS FOR THE DONATION

We are grateful to Steve and Cathy Jacobs for a generous donation to the BJCC. The funds will help as we work on the sanctuary fire escape (and other projects).

## HILLEL NEWS



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

## 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
Past President	Marta Brinberg	martabrinberg @ hotmail.com
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	Open	
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	Cindy Rosenbaum	cbrosenb @ hotmail.com
BJCC listserv keeper	Muriel Kranowski	murielk @ vt.edu
Membership Co-chairs	Linda Deemer	lrdeemer @ comcast.net
	Open	
<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard @ vt.edu

## March 2020 / Adar-Nisan 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 5 Adar	2 6 Adar	3 7 Adar	4 8 Adar	5 9 Adar	6 10 Adar	7 11 Adar <a href="#">Parashat Tetzaveh</a> <a href="#">Shabbat Zachor</a> Reform service
8 12 Adar Purim carnival, 5:00 PM at BB Comm. Center 	9 13 Adar <a href="#">Erev Purim</a>	10 14 Adar <a href="#">Purim</a>	11 15 Adar <a href="#">Shushan Purim</a>	12 16 Adar Rabbi Purser visits, 7:00PM at BJCC	13 17 Adar	14 18 Adar <a href="#">Parashat Ki Tissa</a> <a href="#">Shabbat Parah</a> Reform service
15 19 Adar Planting of trees 	16 20 Adar	17 21 Adar	18 22 Adar	19 23 Adar	20 24 Adar	21 25 Adar <a href="#">Parashat</a> <a href="#">Vayakhel-Pekudei</a> <a href="#">Shabbat</a> <a href="#">HaChodesh</a> Reform service
22 26 Adar	23 27 Adar	24 28 Adar	25 29 Adar Deadline for <i>Shofar</i> contributions	26 1 Nisan <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh</a> <a href="#">Nisan</a>	27 2 Nisan	28 3 Nisan <a href="#">Parashat Vayikra</a> Conservative service
29 4 Nisan	30 5 Nisan	31 6 Nisan				