
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

January 2021 / Tevet-Sh'vat 5781



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Jan. 2—Vayehi—Hindman/Silverman

Jan. 9—Shemot—E. Hallerman

Jan. 16—Va'era—S&M Kranowski

Jan. 23—Bo—R. Scheckler

Jan. 30—B'shallach—M&S Kranowski

SERVICES WILL STILL BE REMOTE

Our leaders have become masters of Zoom, and services are fun and meaningful. We often have visitors (former members and friends) attend services from as far away as Japan. Drop in on Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM. You will receive an email a day or two before the services telling you how to join the upcoming session.

JAN. 2 SHABBAT SERVICE TO BE LED BY TOMMY, WENDY, AND DAN

Recent Bar Mitzvah, Tommy Hindman, will take the lead role (with his parents playing second fiddles) for our Jan. 2 service. Join us online for the event.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- A BIG THANKS to our members and friends for designating the BJCC as their recipient of Kroger Community and AmazonSmile awards for purchases. These painless donations are much appreciated and totaled more than \$160 this quarter.
- Thanks to Steven Jacobs for his continuing donations.

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 \[at\] vt.edu](mailto:richard[at]vt.edu).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone is enjoying their time off and staying safe. This new year (it's important to be specific in Judaism) seems to carry a little more emphasis on renewal and rethinking goals and aspirations. 2020 was a different and very challenging year. However, there is much to look forward to—a vaccine for COVID, a new semester at Virginia Tech, and the lengthening of days (finally). The BJCC building construction renovation is nearing completion, and we hope that in 2021, we will be able to join together in a safer (and better lit) space. For now, our Zoom services continue.

But we should also say happy new year again, because Jan. 27-28 is Tu BiSh'vat. This is the festival of trees, the annual 'tree birthday' to denote when plant maturity arrives. Being a forestry/wood products person, I find having a holiday centered around trees is very cool. The oxygen that trees produce (and carbon that they sequester) are some of the most important natural forces on earth. Trees provide so much for us—wood (obviously), oxygen, shade, medicines, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and the list goes on! So happy (second) new year and don't forget to thank your trees!

Also, a special thanks to Wendy Silverman for organizing a fun Hanukkah event! It was really nice to see everyone light candles, sing songs, and learn some trivia—ranging from French menorahs to the musical stylings of Adam Sandler.

Shalom! Dan, BJCC President

HILLEL NEWS

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

CEMETERY INFO

The BJCC has entered into an agreement with the Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley (MGNRV) to set aside a Jewish section of this commercial cemetery, which is located at the northern end of Main Street in Blacksburg where it runs into Route 460. Contact Cindy Turner (cturner@memorialgardensrv.com) or Jim Lucas (jlucas@memorialgardensrv.com) of the MGNRV at 552- 7800 if you'd like to visit the Jewish section of the cemetery. Several plots have already been purchased; others are still available. BJCC members and their Jewish or non-

Jewish immediate family members, and non-members who are Jewish, are eligible to purchase plots in this section.

The BJCC and MGNRV have agreed on a set of regulations aimed at maintaining the Jewish character of this section in perpetuity. If you are considering such a purchase, please speak with a member of the BJCC cemetery committee (Eric Hallerman, Muriel Kranowski) for an explanation of these regulations. If you are not a member of the BJCC, your purchase will need to be approved by the cemetery committee.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 17 Tevet	2 18 Tevet Parashat Vayehi
3 19 Tevet	4 20 Tevet	5 21 Tevet	6 22 Tevet	7 23 Tevet	8 24 Tevet	9 25 Tevet Parashat Shemot
10 26 Tevet	11 27 Tevet	12 28 Tevet	13 29 Tevet	14 1 Sh'vat Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	15 2 Sh'vat	16 3 Sh'vat Parashat Va'era
17 4 Sh'vat	18 5 Sh'vat	19 6 Sh'vat	20 7 Sh'vat	21 8 Sh'vat	22 9 Sh'vat	23 10 Sh'vat Parashat Bo
24 11 Sh'vat Deadline for next issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	25 12 Sh'vat	26 13 Sh'vat	27 14 Sh'vat	28 15 Sh'vat Tu BiSh'vat 	29 16 Sh'vat	30 17 Sh'vat Parashat B'shallach
31 18 Sh'vat						