

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

December 2023 / Kislev-Tevet 5784



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]

Dec. 2–Vayishlach–E. Hallerman (Zoom)

Dec. 9–Vayeshev (and Chanukah)–S&M
Kranowski ¶(Zoom)

Dec. 16–Miketz–R. Scheckler (at BJCC &
live-streamed)

Dec. 23–Vayigash–E. Hallerman (at BJCC &
live-streamed)

Dec. 30–Vayechi–Marta & Muriel (Zoom)

DECEMBER SERVICES ONLINE AND IN PERSON

This month, we have scheduled two in-person services at the BJCC (with live streaming), and three via Zoom.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, DEC. 24

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Dec. 24. Send information to Richard at [richard \[at\] vt.edu](mailto:richard@vt.edu).

MICAH'S BACKPACK

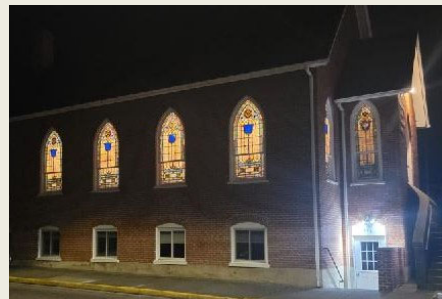
Micah's Backpack has sent a request to faith communities in the area for monetary donations during this holiday season. If you would like to participate, please send a donation made payable to the BJCC (PO Box 782, Blacksburg, VA 24063, with "Micah's Backpack" in the memo line of your check) so we can send one check from the Jewish community to the organization. It is one of our favorite local charities that supplies food for area children. How thankful we all must be for our children and grandchildren and to be able to give to others who are in need.

--Ruth and Linda

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends:

Thursday, Nov. 9 was Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, a remembrance of the start of the Holocaust. There is an international movement of Christians to show support for Jewish friends and neighbors; visit <https://lightupthechurch.org/>. Many of our neighboring faith communities, including the Blacksburg First Church of God right across the street, lit their buildings in support. We lit our lights, too, in thanks for their support.



Speaking of holidays where lighting of lights (in this case, candles) is practiced, Chanukah begins on Friday, Dec. 7. Latkes and dreidels, count me in.

The war in Gaza grinds on as I write. We have received expressions of support from churches (including the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, River Anglican Church in Catawba, First Church of God, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, and Blacksburg Friends Meeting), the NAACP, and too many individuals to count. Despite the support, I think we all bear a burden of worry and anguish. Let's pray for our soldiers, innocent lives on both sides, and the possibility for peace in the Middle East.

Shalom, Eric, BJCC President

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

We are grateful for the following donations:

BJCC donated \$255.00 to Micah's Backpack.
thanks to

- Eric and Ester Hallerman,
- Cynthia Rosenbaum and Matthew Wisnioski,
- and an anonymous donor.

According to Micah's Backpack, this contribution provides a child with 42 weekends of 6 meals and snacks.

We have met our goal of a \$53,000 loan to the BJCC to purchase security equipment until the FEMA grant reimburses the synagogue. Thank you to:

- David and Marta Brinberg
- Leslie and William Floyd
- Eric and Ester Hallerman
- Irene Jacobs
- Steve Jacobs
- Amoz and Nitza Kats
- Al Kornhauser and Rhea Epstein
- Ellen Piilonen
- Dan and Pam Sable
- Madeline Schreiber
- Richard and Doris Zallen

HILLEL NEWS

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

HILLEL HANUKKAH FORMAL, DEC. 2

The Hillel director invites Jewish community members to Hillel at Virginia Tech's first annual Hanukkah formal. With Jewish students across the US hiding their identities, afraid to wear Hillel T-shirts or stars of David, we are loudly and proudly celebrating Jewish joy. See poster below, and get your tickets [here](#).



BJCC Officers and Board Members 2023–24

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Membership Chair	Gil & Nicole Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Religious school directors	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu
<i>Shofar</i> Editor		

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
⚭	⚭	⚭	⚭	⚭	1 18 Kislev	2 19 Kislev Parashat Vayishlach Zoom service
3 20 Kislev	4 21 Kislev	5 22 Kislev	6 23 Kislev	7 24 Kislev Chanukah: 1 Candle 	8 25 Kislev Chanukah: 2 Candles 	9 26 Kislev Chanukah: 3 Candles Parashat Vayeshev Zoom service 
10 27 Kislev Chanukah: 4 Candles 	11 28 Kislev Chanukah: 5 Candles 	12 29 Kislev Chanukah: 6 Candles 	13 1 Tevet Chanukah: 7 Candles Rosh Chodesh Tevet 	14 2 Tevet Chanukah: 8 Candles 	15 3 Tevet Chanukah: 8th Day	16 4 Tevet Parashat Miketz At BJCC and live-streamed
17 5 Tevet	18 6 Tevet	19 7 Tevet	20 8 Tevet	21 9 Tevet	22 10 Tevet	23 11 Tevet Parashat Vayigash At BJCC and live-streamed
24 12 Tevet Deadline for Jan. issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	25 13 Tevet	26 14 Tevet	27 15 Tevet	28 16 Tevet	29 17 Tevet	30 18 Tevet Parashat Vayechi Zoom service
31 19 Tevet	⚭	⚭	⚭	⚭	⚭	⚭