
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

October 2021 / Tishrei-Cheshvan 5782



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
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Web site: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

- Oct. 2–Breishit (Zoom)—E. Hallerman
- Oct. 9–Noach (Zoom)—M&S Kranowski
- Oct. 16–Lech Lecha (Zoom)—R. Scheckler
- Oct. 23–Vayera (Zoom)—E. Hallerman
- Oct. 30–Chayei Sarah (Zoom)—S&M Kranowski

ZOOM SERVICES IN OCTOBER

The service leaders have concluded that it isn't prudent to hold in-person services at the BJCC right now, so we are back to Zoom services for October. The service leader will send you the link a day or two ahead. Please join us on-line at 10:00 on Saturday mornings; it's good to connect with one another in this way.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello, everyone. I wanted to wish you Happy New Year again and thank everyone who was involved in our High Holy Days services. It really takes a community to help create these services, and I appreciate the involvement of so many of our members in making them possible and meaningful.

September brings the still awaited cool weather to Blacksburg, the changing color (and falling) of the leaves, Sukkot and the start of Sunday School. A big thank you to Marta and Wendy who are leading our Sunday School this year. They are planning to do everything they can to maintain a safe space at the BJCC while giving your children a meaningful Jewish education.

A quick reminder: we are still looking for an Education Chair and President Elect to fill out our board. If interested, please let me know.

Shalom, Dan, BJCC President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON ROSH HASHANAH

[Just like the *New York Times*, the *Shofar* enjoys being considered a journal of record, which reproduces important statements of noteworthy public leaders. Below is the BJCC President's speech, given on Erev Rosh Hashanah last month.]

Hello everyone, I am Dan Hindman, the current BJCC president. I would like to wish you and your families Shanah Tovah and best wishes for a new year. I would like to thank Irv [Gertner, our cantor] and the Religious Committee for our High Holy Day services. While many of us had hoped to be together in person this year, ultimately, the leadership of the BJCC felt it was better to remain online.

This year has been a mixed bag of feelings. We are all saddened by the pandemic, but hope was strong in the vaccine. Unfortunately, the Delta variant has forced us to be extra-cautious. While we started the year of services all on Zoom, we have now transitioned to occasional in-person services. While our Sunday School last school year was all Zoom, we are planning for in-person Sunday School with the use of masks and social distancing this year. A large thanks to Marta Brinberg and Wendy Silverman, who have been serving as the Sunday School leaders.

This year has seen some changes at the BJCC. We have finished our major security and lighting upgrades and now have an exit door at the front of the sanctuary. Beyond those improvements, we have replaced the affectionately known "saloon" doors at the back of the sanctuary with steel doors that can be locked. Furthermore, we have installed improved LED lighting in the sanctuary. These upgrades were made possible by the generous donations of members and funds from the BJCC budget.

The BJCC also continues to be active in Blacksburg and in surrounding communities. A group of members has been volunteering at Micah's

Backpack, helping provide meals to many needy students. Thanks to Aaron and Nick Goldstein for coordinating this activity.

Also, the BJCC has been involved in some local efforts to create an interfaith group that has been examining some of the challenging history in our area. The group coordinated tours of the Gainsboro district in Roanoke, the historic African American business community almost completely wiped out by urban renewal, and also the Christiansburg Institute. [In September, there was a] discussion of the Calfee Training School in Pulaski and the Carver School in Salem. I want to encourage you to participate in these activities, and I want to thank Ruth Grene for leading this initiative.

I would like to thank you for your membership and participation in the BJCC. Your support of the BJCC is very important to all of us in creating a Jewish community. One of the joys of being president is to staff the email for the BJCC and to see the messages of new people coming to Blacksburg who are ecstatic that there is a Jewish community here. I want to remind you that your membership helps fund our building, Sunday school, service activities, and community outreach. To help us with our budgeting and planning, we ask that you be prompt with paying your dues.

I would also like to ask a favor of you: the BJCC board is looking for more volunteers. We have two positions open on the board now—President Elect and Sunday School Liaison. The positions do not take a large time commitment. You will work with a great team of supporters (all mensches!) and help contribute to our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me or any other board member.

Again, I want to wish you a Happy New Year, Shonah Tovah. I hope you and your families remain safe and healthy.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, OCT. 22

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Oct. 22. Send information to Richard at richard [at] vt.edu.

HILLEL NEWS

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

FROM THE TREASURER: THANKS!

We are grateful for the generosity of our members for their tzedakah donations, the full amount of which is passed on through the BJCC so as to maximize awareness of the contributions of our BJCC members for our greater community. Many other BJCC members have donated directly to these causes.

- **The following members have made pass-through tzedakah donations to the BJCC of almost \$2,000 in support of the Blacksburg Interfaith food Pantry:** Marta and David Brinberg, Steve Jacobs, Doris and Richard Zallen, Leslie Kay and William Floyd, Ester and Eric Hallerman, Irene Jacobs, Linda Deemer, Gary and Sharon Long, Rhea Epstein and Alan and Madelyn Kornhauser, and anonymous donors.
- **The following members have made pass-through tzedakah donations to the BJCC of almost \$500 in support of the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership:** Ester and Eric Hallerman, Irene Jacobs, Doris and Richard Zallen, and anonymous donors.
- **The following members have made pass-through tzedakah donations to the BJCC in support of Micah's Backpack:** Golde Holtzman, Doris and Richard Zallen, and Irene Jacobs, and anonymous donors.
- **A special thanks goes to Marcia Shumsky for her generous donation, in loving memory of Larry, to the cultural programs of the BJCC.**

DUES—DON'T FORGET TO PAY

Please send in your dues (\$700 per family, or \$350 per individual) and Religious/Sunday School fees (new lower rates; see BJCC website) and contact Marta Brinberg for Religious School details. As always, individuals and families can discuss a reduction of dues and/or fees in privacy with the treasurer, Stephen Scheckler. The BJCC mission is to serve the needs of New River Valley Jews. No one will be turned away for lack of financial resources.

October 2021 / Tishrei – Cheshvan 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 25 Tishrei	2 26 Tishrei Parashat Breishit Zoom service
3 27 Tishrei	4 28 Tishrei	5 29 Tishrei	6 30 Tishrei Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	7 1 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	8 2 Cheshvan	9 3 Cheshvan Parashat Noach Zoom service
10 4 Cheshvan	11 5 Cheshvan	12 6 Cheshvan	13 7 Cheshvan Yom HaAliyah	14 8 Cheshvan	15 9 Cheshvan	16 10 Cheshvan Parashat Lech-Lecha Zoom service
17 11 Cheshvan	18 12 Cheshvan	19 13 Cheshvan	20 14 Cheshvan	21 15 Cheshvan	22 16 Cheshvan Deadline for Nov. issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	23 17 Cheshvan Parashat Vayera Zoom service
24 18 Cheshvan	25 19 Cheshvan	26 20 Cheshvan	27 21 Cheshvan	28 22 Cheshvan	29 23 Cheshvan	30 24 Cheshvan Parashat Chayei Sarah Zoom service
31 25 Cheshvan						

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2021–22

(Officers are definite; some committee chairs need to be verified)

President	Dan Hindman	dhindman [at] vt.edu
President–elect (V.P.)	Open	
Past President	Aaron Goldstein	goldst [at] vt.edu
Treasurer	Stephen Scheckler	stephen [at] vt.edu
Secretary	Maddy Schreiber	mekeesee [at] gmail.com
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Board members–at–large	Bradley and Rita Klein	bklein [at] vt.edu
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