

# THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

June 2024/ Iyyar-Sivan 5784



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center  
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## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

June 1–Behukkotai–R&S Scheckler (Zoom)

June 8–Bamidbar–Brad & Eric (Zoom)

June 15–Naso–E.Hallerman (BJCC & live-streamed)\*\*

\*\*potluck lunch after services

June 22–B'haalot'cha–M&S Kranowski (Zoom)

June 29–Shelach–M. Brinberg (BJCC & live-streamed)

## MIXED SERVICES IN MAY

Shabbat services in May will be held in-person and streamed. It's always nice if you can come in-person to a BJCC service (and avoid technology problems), but we are always pleased to see friends online.

## POTLUCK LUNCH, JUNE 15

In May, we enjoyed our first in-house potluck lunch since Jan. 2020, and we'll try to keep it up. (Much appreciation to Ruth Grene and Dan & Wendy Silverman for doing the prep, setup, and cleanup!) Please bring a dairy, vegetarian, or kosher-fish dish to share on June 15. You can arrive before 10:00 AM and deposit your dish downstairs before services start at 10:00 AM. Or, just bring your dish at about 11:20 AM and join us downstairs for kiddush and lunch after services.

## SHOFAR DEADLINE, JUNE 24

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

## HILLEL NEWS

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends:

For those not already aware, at our recent congregational meeting, we held elections, and Gary Long is our new President-Elect. Thank you, Gary, for stepping up to lead. Thanks, also, to those agreeing to serve in officer positions: Maddy Schreiber (Secretary), Marta Brinberg (Treasurer), Cindy Rosenbaum and Rita & Brad Klein (At-large Members). Gary will become our president when we hold another congregational meeting on Thurs., June 20, to adopt a new budget for the coming fiscal year. There is a widely shared sense that we need to shift to a younger generation of leadership sometime soon, so I encourage more youthful members to consider standing for election to president-elect and to train for future service as president.

Adoption of a budget for the coming year will provide the cue for my swan song as BJCC President. For those not acquainted with the turn of phrase, “swan song” refers to a farewell appearance, final act, or public statement. It is widely, though incorrectly, believed that swans live a silent existence until the time of their death, when with their last breath, they sing a beautiful song. I will refrain from singing, and I'm feeling fine, but I will express relief upon passing the baton to a new leader. I will, of course, continue to serve as past-president.

Within the past month, Ruth Grene initiated an effort to support purchase of halal meat for Muslims served by the Interfaith Food Pantry. The BJCC raised \$3,916 towards the \$5,740 raised by all faith communities to support this community. This is the mitzvah of “love thy neighbor” realized.

As I've written before, we have been working on physical upgrades for enhancing the security of

our building. I'm pleased to write that, thanks largely to the efforts of Building Chair, Al Kornhauser, that work is completed. We turn now to writing up standard operating procedures, work being done by a committee chaired by Rebecca Scheckler. More on that in another piece in the *Shofar*. Once the SOPs are drafted, training will follow!

Shalom, Eric, BJCC President

## MOTION FOR A SAFETY & SECURITY CHAIR

Living as we do in a time of concern, we have devoted considerable effort and expense to making our building safer and more secure. With the physical infrastructure now upgraded, we also should develop protocols for how to react in real time when our safety or security are threatened. We recently organized an ad-hoc committee, chaired by Rebecca Scheckler, to develop operating procedures. The need for such a committee will be ongoing, and so it is appropriate that this becomes a standing committee with a chair who will sit on the BJCC Board. In accordance with our bylaws, at our congregational meeting on May 16, I moved to establish a Safety and Security Chair. The language below would be added to our bylaws as a new item under Article 6. Particular Mandates of the Chairs:

9. The Safety and Security Chair shall, on an ongoing basis, review our infrastructure and standard operating procedures to seek means of increasing our on-site safety and security, and shall train congregants on implementation of standard operating and emergency procedures. We will vote on this motion at our June 20 congregational meeting,

## SUMMER READING EVENT, JUNE 2

Join us downstairs at the BJCC on Sunday, June 2, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM to pick up some summer reading and enjoy a cold ice pop treat. All are welcome; we have books for children and adults and ice pops for anyone who wants one. This event will be very informal; it's a chance to

browse the collection in our book nooks and socialize.

Please RSVP to Suzan Antin at 540-415-8672, by Sat., June 1 so we can plan to have enough ice pops.

## PJ BOOK NOOKS AND UPDATES

Our PJ Book Nooks offer lots of summer reading options for you and your family members. We have multiple recipe books in the white bins, which you can browse for Shavuot recipes and family crafts. Also of interest for adults is a wonderful book by Noa Tishby called *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*. Both the upstairs and downstairs book nooks have copies of the recipe books and the book about Israel.

It's baseball season! Ages 9+ can check the teal bin upstairs for *Stealing Home*, and ages 7+ can find *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?* in the royal blue bin downstairs.

We have a wonderful oversized game based on the Israel Trail upstairs, as well as lots of books about Israel for all ages in the blue bins upstairs and downstairs.

## PREPARE FOR 2024 NAACP FREEDOM FUND DINNER

**NAACP**  
Montgomery Co-Radford City-  
Floyd Co Branch

SAVE THE DATE

*Freedom Fund Dinner*

**September 28, 2024**

Virginia Tech Hotel & Conference Center

Community & Businesses

are encouraged to Sponsor reserved tables. Details forthcoming. Please call 540-382-6751 or email [info@mrfnaacp.org](mailto:info@mrfnaacp.org) to provide contact information.

## BJCC Officers and Board Members 2024–25

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

President	Eric Hallerman	ehallerm [at]vt.edu
President–elect (V.P.)	Gary Long	glong [at] vt.edu
Past President	Dan Hindman	dhindman [at] vt.edu
Treasurer	Marta Brinberg	martabrinberg [at] hotmail.com
Secretary	Maddy Schreiber	mekeesee [at] gmail.com
Education Chair	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
Co-chair	Linda Deemer	lrdeemer [at] comcast.net
Religion Chair	Muriel Kranowski	murielk [at] vt.edu
Social Chair	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
Building Chair	Al Kornhauser	alkorn [at] vt.edu
Culture Chair	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
Board members—at–large	Bradley and Rita Klein	bklein [at] vt.edu
	Cindy Rosenbaum	cbrosenb [at] hotmail.com
BJCC listserv keeper	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
Membership Chair	Open	
Religious school directors	Anna Zeide	annazeide [at] gmail.com
	Gil & Nicole Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

## June 2024 / Iyyar-Sivan 5784

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 24 Iyyar <a href="#">Parashat Behukkotai</a> 39th day of the Omer Zoom service
<b>2</b> 25 Iyyar 40th day of the Omer Summer Reading event at BJCC, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM	<b>3</b> 26 Iyyar 41st day of the Omer	<b>4</b> 27 Iyyar 42nd day of the Omer	<b>5</b> 28 Iyyar <a href="#">Yom Yerushalayim</a> 43rd day of the Omer	<b>6</b> 29 Iyyar 44th day of the Omer	<b>7</b> 1 Sivan <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Sivan</a> 45th day of the Omer	<b>8</b> 2 Sivan <a href="#">Parashat Bamidbar</a> 46th day of the Omer Zoom service
<b>9</b> 3 Sivan 47th day of the Omer	<b>10</b> 4 Sivan 48th day of the Omer	<b>11</b> 5 Sivan <a href="#">Erev Shavuot</a> 49th day of the Omer	<b>12</b> 6 Sivan <a href="#">Shavuot I</a>	<b>13</b> 7 Sivan <a href="#">Shavuot II</a>	<b>14</b> 8 Sivan	<b>15</b> 9 Sivan <a href="#">Parashat Naso</a> Zoom and live-streamed service & potluck lunch
<b>16</b> 10 Sivan	<b>17</b> 11 Sivan	<b>18</b> 12 Sivan	<b>19</b> 13 Sivan	<b>20</b> 14 Sivan	<b>21</b> 15 Sivan	<b>22</b> 16 Sivan <a href="#">Parashat B'haalot'cha</a> Zoom service
<b>23</b> 17 Sivan	<b>24</b> 18 Sivan Due date for July Shofar news items	<b>25</b> 19 Sivan	<b>26</b> 20 Sivan	<b>27</b> 21 Sivan	<b>28</b> 22 Sivan	<b>29</b> 23 Sivan <a href="#">Parashat Shelach</a> Zoom and live-streamed service
<b>30</b> 24 Sivan						