

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

October 2023 / Tishrei-Cheshvan 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]

- Oct. 7—Shemini Atzeret—S&M Kranowski (Zoom)
- Oct. 14—Breishit—R&S Scheckler (at Nellies Cave Park; no Zoom streaming)
- Oct. 21—Noach—Marta & Muriel (Zoom)
- Oct. 28—Lech Lecha—E. Hallerman (in person at BJCC and Zoom streaming)

SERVICES ALL OVER IN OCTOBER

We'll have two Zoom-only services, one outdoor service at Nellies Cave Park (on Oct. 14), and one in-person service at the BJCC with live-streaming. The outdoor service may be followed by a potluck lunch if someone can organize that—to be determined.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, OCT. 24

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

DUES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL FEES

BJCC dues and religious school fees.

Member dues: \$700/year for families and \$350/year for single households.

Religious School fees: \$375/year for grades K-8 and \$225/year for pre-K.

Please mail membership dues and Religious School fees to the following address:

Blacksburg Jewish Community Center (BJCC)
PO Box 782

Blacksburg, VA 24063-0782

As always, individuals and families can discuss a reduction of dues and/or fees in privacy with the treasurer, Marta Brinberg. The BJCC mission is to serve the needs of New River Valley Jews. No one will be turned away for lack of financial resources.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends:

The High Holy Days are now behind us. I hope you found meaning and spiritual uplift. There are many people to thank who contributed to realization of our High holy Days services: the Organizing Committee—Muriel Kranowski, Marta Brinberg and myself; cantor Irv Gertner; candle lighters Linda Deemer and Rita and Brad Klein; English readers Maddie Schreiber, Richard Hirsh, Anna Zeide, Sharone Tomer, Linda Deemer, and Ed Tuchler; Hebrew leaders Rebecca Scheckler and Steven Kranowski; Torah and Haftarah readers Rhea Epstein, Ester Hallerman, Muriel Kranowski, Marta Brinberg, Rebecca Scheckler, and Brad Klein; food drive coordinator Marta Brinberg; sukkah coordinator Stephen Scheckler; and others whom I may have omitted (for which I apologize).

Sukkot is now ongoing, and I urge you to take a moment to feel the joy. Here in the Diaspora, it is easy to overlook the chance for enjoying the change of season and for meals and fellowship in the sukkah, a simple structure that we build with our hands and decorate with our children's crafts. I encourage you to take a moment on one of the two Shabbats that fall within Sukkot this year to enjoy our community's Sukkah.

About two weeks ago, we finally got the go-ahead on our grant from FEMA for security upgrades to the BJCC building. So, over the next few months, watch for installation of another security light, security cameras and coverings for our stained-glass windows. We also will implement improved practices to keep ourselves safe. Thanks in particular to Al Kornhauser for spearheading the proposal that secured this grant.
Shalom, Eric, BJCC President

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

We are grateful for the following donations:

- Anna Zeide for Interfaith Food Pantry.
- Ruth Grene, Irene Jacobs, Stephen and Rebecca Scheckler, Marta Brinberg, Eric and Ester Hallerman, and Linda Deemer for NAACP Freedom Fund dinner.
- Grant from Harold Grinspoon Foundation to support the local PJ Library.
- Matthew Lawhead and Sharone Tomer in honor of Muriel Kranowski and Wendy Silverman.
- And from Karen Rosenthal, who wrote a note along with a donation via PayPal: “I came to the synagogue in the summer of 1980, and everyone was very nice to me. I always wondered what happened to it. I recently became aware of this [web]site, and so I decided a little tovah tachat tovah was in order. Have a happy Jewish New Year.”

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@memorialgardensnr.com) or Jim Lucas (jlucas@memorialgardensnr.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, and Marta Brinberg) 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.

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2023–24

President	Eric Hallerman	ehallerm [at]vt.edu
President–elect (V.P.)	Open	
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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 16 Tishrei Sukkot II	2 17 Tishrei Sukkot III (CH"M)	3 18 Tishrei Sukkot IV (CH"M)	4 19 Tishrei Sukkot V (CH"M)	5 20 Tishrei Sukkot VI (CH"M)	6 21 Tishrei Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba)	7 22 Tishrei Shemini Atzeret Zoom service
8 23 Tishrei Simchat Torah	9 24 Tishrei	10 25 Tishrei	11 26 Tishrei	12 27 Tishrei	13 28 Tishrei	14 29 Tishrei Parashat Breishit Service at Nellies Cave Park; no streaming
15 30 Tishrei Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	16 1 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	17 2 Cheshvan	18 3 Cheshvan	19 4 Cheshvan	20 5 Cheshvan	21 6 Cheshvan Parashat Noach Zoom service
22 7 Cheshvan Yom HaAliyah School Observance	23 8 Cheshvan	24 9 Cheshvan Deadline for submitting info for Nov. issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	25 10 Cheshvan	26 11 Cheshvan	27 12 Cheshvan	28 13 Cheshvan Parashat Lech Lecha BJCC and streaming service
29 14 Cheshvan	30 15 Cheshvan	31 16 Cheshvan				