

# THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

February 2024/ Sh'vat-Adar I 5784



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center  
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Web site: [www.bjccblacksburg.org](http://www.bjccblacksburg.org)



## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM every Saturday]

- Feb. 3-Yitro-R&S Scheckler (at BJCC & live-streamed)
- Feb. 10-Mishpatim-S&M Kranowski (Zoom)
- Feb. 17-Terumah-E. Hallerman (at BJCC & live-streamed)
- Feb. 24-Tetzaveh-Marta & Muriel (Zoom)

## FEBRUARY SERVICES ONLINE AND IN PERSON

We're alternating in-person services (with live streaming) and Zoom-only services in February. Try to join us at the BJCC for at least one service; it's very satisfying to daven together and discuss the Torah portion together in the building.

## SHOFAR DEADLINE, FEB. 25

Muriel Kranowski is the guest editor for the March issue of the Shofar. The deadline for submitting news is Feb. 25. Send information to [murielk \[at\] vt.edu](mailto:murielk[at]vt.edu).

## BAT MITZVAH MARCH 9

Lauren & Ethan Colliver invite the BJCC community to join in the celebration of their daughter, Seraphina Leslie, as she comes to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024

Time: 10am

Location: BJCC

There will be a kiddush and light snacks following the service.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends:

It's been cold and snowy here, but it's already spring in Israel and the calaniot are blooming.



Tu B'Shevat fell on January 24, and the BJCC and Hillel had a seder soon after to commemorate the new year for the trees and flowers. Thanks, Wendy Silverman for coordinating, and Amanda Herring for including us in the event.

Enhancement of the security of our building is advancing. Building Chair Al Kornhauser found a viable, lower-cost solution for covering and protecting our stained-glass windows. The new plan was approved by the Town of Blacksburg, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and FEMA, and work will go ahead soon. We'll also install security cameras soon.

A number of us have been participating in an interfaith group that reads and discusses books on topics of mutual interest. We meet every other Sunday at 3:00pm for a spirited discussion (pun intended). We'll be starting a new book in mid-February, and that's a good time to join in. If you are interested, let me know and I'll provide details and add you to the notification list.

Sad news: Leonard Gutter, the father of Mike Gutter, passed away Jan. 24. Please join me in offering condolences to the Gutter family.

Every day that we have is a gift – use it well.

Shalom, Eric, BJCC President

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Donation**

We are grateful for a donation to the BJCC from Rebecca Scheckler in memory of Nat Kranowski and Ety Vandsburger.

### **Charitable contribution letter.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a letter acknowledging a charitable contribution of over \$250 to claim the contribution as an itemized deduction on your income tax return. Because of recent changes to the tax laws, claiming the standard deduction rather than an itemized deduction provides a greater reduction in taxable income for most people.

Please contact the BJCC treasurer, Marta Brinberg, if you would like a letter acknowledging your charitable contributions to the BJCC for 2023.

### **Website Donate Button**

Check out the changes to the Donate button on the BJCC website: [bjccblacksburg.org](http://bjccblacksburg.org). The BJCC is now a registered charitable organization with PayPal, which means that no fees are charged when you make a donation.

The Donate button takes you to a page that says "Donate to PayPal Giving Fund: Blacksburg Jewish Community Center."

## **OBITUARY OF LEONARD GUTTER**

Leonard H. Gutter was born March 14, 1945, to Melvin and Billie Gutter. Leonard grew up and went to school in Bexley, Ohio. Shortly after finishing high school, Leonard met Rochelle. They were married on July 2, 1967. Their son Jeff was born in 1971 and Michael in 1974. Leonard passed away peacefully surrounded by family the morning of January 24, 2024.

Leonard proudly served his country both during the Vietnam War and as a member of the Army National Guard for over a decade. Leonard worked hard to support his family working both for the Department of Defense and often a second job just to make sure his family had everything they needed. In addition to his two sons, Leonard had four grandchildren, who were the apple of his eye and brought him years of joy.

While Leonard spent most of his life in Columbus, Ohio, he retired to Florida and in his final year to Blacksburg where he lived with his youngest son and his family. Leonard is remembered as a kind, hard-working man. He was loved by his children and grandchildren, and all who met him quickly knew he was a good man. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association in Leonard's memory.

### **HILLEL NEWS**

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

## 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

## February 2024 / Sh'vat -Adar I 5784

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 22 Sh'vat	2 23 Sh'vat	3 24 Sh'vat <a href="#">Parashat Yitro</a> (at BJCC & live-streamed)
4 25 Sh'vat	5 26 Sh'vat	6 27 Sh'vat	7 28 Sh'vat	8 29 Sh'vat	9 30 Sh'vat <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Adar I</a>	10 1 Adar I <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Adar I</a> <a href="#">Parashat Mishpatim</a> (Zoom)
11 2 Adar I	12 3 Adar I	13 4 Adar I	14 5 Adar I	15 6 Adar I	16 7 Adar I	17 8 Adar I <a href="#">Parashat Terumah</a> (at BJCC & live-streamed)
18 9 Adar I	19 10 Adar I	20 11 Adar I	21 12 Adar I	22 13 Adar I	23 14 Adar I <a href="#">Purim Katan</a>	24 15 Adar I <a href="#">Parashat Tetzaveh</a> (Zoom)
25 16 Adar I	26 17 Adar I	27 18 Adar I	28 19 Adar I	29 20 Adar I		