

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

July 2023 / Tamuz-Av 5783



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
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Web site: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]
July 1–Chukat-Balak–E. Hallerman (Zoom)
July 8–Pinchas (at Nellies Cave Park)–Schecklers
July 15–Mattot-Masei–M&S Kranowski (Zoom)
July 22–Devarim–E. Hallerman (BJCC)
July 29–Vaet'chanan–Marta & Muriel (Zoom)

JULY SERVICES ONLINE, OUTDOORS, AND AT THE BJCC

We'll have Zoom services on July 1, 15, and 29.
On July 8, we'll have outdoor services at Nellies
Cave Shelter followed by a potluck picnic lunch.
And on July 22 we'll have an in-person service at
the BJCC with live streaming. Mask-wearing at
in-person services is now optional. (See next
item.)

MASK-WEARING POLICY

The BJCC Board of Directors has changed the
policy for wearing masks in the sanctuary. The
new policy, subject to change in the future with
short notice, is that mask-wearing is optional and
not required.

OTHER OUTDOOR SERVICES PLANNED FOR AUG., SEPT., & OCT.

The BJCC has reserved the shelter at Nellies Cave
Park in Blacksburg (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM) for
Shabbat services followed by a potluck lunch and
a social on the following dates: July 8, Aug. 12,
Sept. 2, and Oct. 7. Please join us for services
and/or a potluck/social. Everyone is welcome!
The shelter has a nice roof and is near convenient
parking and bathrooms. Playground facilities for
young (and old) ones are also nearby.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends -

Our experience of *nachas*, or joy in our young
people, continued as we celebrated Isaak
Wisnioski's Bar Mitzvah on June 24. Nicely done,
Isaak!



Following vandalism of the BJCC sign in March,
Blacksburg's faith communities came together for
a program that supported our congregation and
created energy for further activities promoting
interfaith understanding. Ruth Grene and I had
conversations with faith leaders regarding what
we might do to in this regard. There was shared
interest in exploring, for example, how the
monotheisms grew from a common root and how
the respective belief systems differentiated
historically and philosophically. We have in mind
biweekly meetings to discuss articles or book
chapters of shared interest. Leadership of
discussions and the site of the meetings will rotate
among congregations as we move from book to
book. I invite your participation.

Our first book will be *Dangerous Religious
Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in*

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, by Rachel Mikva. You can find it here: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Dangerous+Religious+Ideas%3A+The+Deep+Roots+of+Self-Critical+Faith+in+Judaism%2C+Christianity%2C+and+Islam&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss. Our first meeting will be at 4:00 PM, Sun., July 9 in the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg. Park in the lower lot, and follow signs to Fellowship Hall entrance, adjacent to the playground. I hope to see you there!

While in Raleigh recently, Ester and I visited the North Carolina Museum of Art, where we found a small, but nice exhibit on Judaic art. This included a Torah in the Sephardic style of enclosure (see image in next column), plus kiddush cups, Seder plates, amazing Torah crowns, a huge Chanukiah, and other artifacts. Should you find yourself with extra hours in Raleigh, exploring this exhibit (and indeed the whole museum) will be time well spent.

Shalom, Eric, BJCC President



Torah Case with Finials and Pointer

Title	Torah Case with Finials and Pointer
Date:	Case: ca. 1860 or earlier; finials and pointer: probably later
Artist:	Bao Xin Workshop
Dimensions:	Case: H. 38 1/2 x Diam. 11 1/2 in. (97.8 x 29.2 cm) Finials: H. 6 5/8 in. (16.8 cm) Pointer: H. 17 in. (43.2 cm)
Medium:	
Credit Line:	Gift of Carlos and Terri Union Zukowski, their children, and grandchildren in loving memory of Bettye and Ben Saslaw, Del Saslaw, and Doba and David Zukowski

Info from NC Art Museum, <https://ncartmuseum.org/object/torah-case-with-finials-and-pointer/>

THANKS FOR THE GIFT

We are grateful for the gift given by Cindy Rosenbaum, Matt Wisnioski, and Isaak Wisnioski in honor of Eric Hallerman.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, JULY 24

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is July 24. Send information to Richard at richard [at] vt.edu.

HILLEL NEWS

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

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2022–23

President	Eric Hallerman	ehallerm [at] vt.edu
President–elect (V.P.)	Open	
Past President	Dan Hindman	dhindman [at] vt.edu
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	Cindy Rosenbaum	cbrosenb [at] hotmail.com
BJCC listserv keeper	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
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<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12 Tamuz Parashat Chukat-Balak Zoom service
2 13 Tamuz	3 14 Tamuz	4 15 Tamuz	5 16 Tamuz	6 17 Tamuz	7 18 Tamuz	8 19 Tamuz Parashat Pinchas Service in person at Nellies Cave Park (not Zoomed)
9 20 Tamuz	10 21 Tamuz	11 22 Tamuz	12 23 Tamuz	13 24 Tamuz	14 25 Tamuz	15 26 Tamuz Parashat Mattot-Masei Zoom service
16 27 Tamuz	17 28 Tamuz	18 29 Tamuz	19 1 Av Rosh Chodesh Av	20 2 Av	21 3 Av	22 4 Av Parashat Devarim In-person at BJCC and via Zoom
23 5 Av	24 6 Av Deadline for news items for the <i>Shofar</i>	25 7 Av	26 8 Av Erev Tish'a B'Av	27 9 Av Tish'a B'Av	28 10 Av	29 11 Av Parashat Vaet'chanan Zoom service
30 12 Av	31 13 Av					