
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

January 2025 / Tevet-Sh'vat 5785



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]

Jan. 4–Vayigash–R&S Scheckler (in person & live-streamed)

Jan. 11–Vayechi–E. Hallerman (Zoom)

Jan. 18–Shemot–M. Brinberg (in person & live-streamed) **followed by potluck lunch

Jan. 25–Vaera–B. Klein (Zoom))

IN-PERSON AND ZOOM SERVICES

We have an easy-to-remember alternating schedule of in-person and Zoom services in January, as long as you remember that the first service (Jan. 4) will be in person. Come out and join us!

POTLUCK LUNCH ON JAN. 18

We'll have a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Jan. 18. You can bring your dish with you (plan to arrive downstairs with it a few minutes before 10:00 AM) and attend the service, or simply join us at 11:30. Please bring a vegetarian or kosher-fish dish to share. If you come for the service, your dish can be refrigerated and/or can be heated in the oven so it's at the best temperature for serving.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION LETTER.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a letter acknowledging a charitable contribution of more than \$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. Consequently, letters acknowledging contributions are not automatically sent. However, please contact the BJCC treasurer, Marta Brinberg, if you would like a letter acknowledging your charitable contributions to the BJCC for 2024.

THANKS FOR THE DONATION

We are grateful for a donation to the BJCC from Kenneth and Judith Yalowitz.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, JAN. 24

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

PJ LIBRARY NEWS

For ages 10+, in both book nooks, check out *Death by Toilet Paper* in the teal bins. It's realistic fiction and won the Sydney Taylor Silver Medal, an award given by the Association of Jewish Libraries to books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience.

For younger readers, we have a wide selection of books about Shabbat and Jewish values, which can be found in the royal blue bins in both book nooks. Downstairs, a recent addition is *Gina from Siberia*, which is appropriate for readers ages 6+ and tells the story of a modern exodus from Siberia to the US from the perspective of the family dog, Gina. Upstairs, for ages 6+, we have *The Bagel King*, which is a humorous story about kindness and friendship.

Our white bins have lots of books for adults, including two wonderful recipe and craft collections, as well as memoirs, fiction and biographies.

As a reminder, the books with a book card in the front are ones that we ask you to check out and return. Write your name on the book card and put it in the pink bin. You may keep it as long as you wish, but please do return it.

Happy reading!

(See next page for a summary of the color coding of the book nooks.)

How to Use our Book Nooks

- Color Coding
 - Teal bins - ages 9+
 - Royal blue ages 6 months – 8 years - books for younger children in the front.
 - White bins for adults
 - Hot pink bin for book cards and returns
- Each bin has a QR code on the left side - scan to see a list of books in that bin, with photos of the covers, as well as the title and suggested age.
 - Tap on a book to get more info.

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2024–25

President	Gary Long	glong [at] vt.edu
President–elect (V.P.)	Open	
Past President	Eric Hallerman	ehallerm [at]vt.edu
Treasurer	Marta Brinberg	martabrinberg [at] hotmail.com
Secretary	Maddy Keesee	mekeesee [at] gmail.com
Education Chair	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
Co-chairs	Linda Deemer	lrdeemer [at] comcast.net
Religion Chair	Muriel Kranowski	murielk [at] vt.edu
Social Chair	Open	
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

January 2025

Tevet – Sh'vat 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1st of Tevet, 5785 Chanukah: 8 Candles Rosh Chodesh Tevet	2 2nd of Tevet Chanukah: 8th Day	3 3rd of Tevet	4 4th of Tevet Parashat Vayigash In person at BJCC and live-streamed service
5th of Tevet	6th of Tevet	7th of Tevet	8th of Tevet	9th of Tevet	10th of Tevet	11th of Tevet Parashat Vayechi Zoom service
12th of Tevet	13th of Tevet	14th of Tevet	15th of Tevet	16th of Tevet	17th of Tevet	18th of Tevet Parashat Shemot In person at BJCC and live- streamed service & potluck lunch
19th of Tevet	20th of Tevet	21st of Tevet	22nd of Tevet	23rd of Tevet	24th of Tevet Deadline for submitting info for the Feb. <i>Shofar</i>	25th of Tevet Parashat Vaera Mevarchim Chodesh Sh'vat Zoom service
26th of Tevet	27th of Tevet	28th of Tevet	29th of Tevet	30 1st of Sh'vat, 5785 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	31 2nd of Sh'vat	

Diaspora holidayschedule

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