

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

May 2024/ Nisan-Iyyar 5784



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
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Web site: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

May 4—Acharei Mot—R&S Scheckler (Zoom)

**May 11—Kedoshim—Marta (Zoom only)
not at BJCC—changed from original
schedule**

May 18—Emor—Eric & Seraphina (BJCC &
streamed) **and potluck lunch**

May 25—Behar—Brad & Eric (Zoom)

MIXED SERVICES IN MAY

Shabbat services in May will be held in-person
and streamed. If you can come to a BJCC service,
no worries about technology, and it's good to
gather in person.

POTLUCK LUNCH, MAY 18

For the first time since Jan. 2020, we'll have our
traditional potluck lunch after services at about
11:30 AM. Bring your dairy or veggie dish at
10:00 AM and attend the service, or bring it at
11:30 AM for the lunch.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, MAY 24

The deadline for submitting news for the next
issue of the *Shofar* is May 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:

I trust that everyone had an uplifting and
enjoyable Passover.

The PJ Library dedicated two book nooks in the
BJCC on Sun., April 7. Children's book author
Madelyn Rosenberg read one of her books to
Sunday School students, as shown below, at a
festive and enjoyable event. In addition to Sunday
School families, there were three families new to
the area and one that had never attended an event
at the BJCC. PJ Library coordinator Suzan Antin
noted that five families have donated to the
Grinspoon Foundation specifically to support the
PJ Library; three attended and were recognized at
the event. The PJ Library currently serves 32
children from 24 families. Over the 12 years that
it has been active within our community, it has
served 107 children from 64 families. So, a nice
event celebrating a successful program. We owe
Suzan our thanks!



Ester and I recently had the opportunity to visit the grand Dohany Synagogue in Budapest. In its heyday, it was the largest synagogue in the world, the focus of a Jewish community of 300,000. Alas, almost all Hungarian Jews perished in the Holocaust, and its sanctuary is more a memorial than a place of active worship. Against this background, on April. 3, members of our congregation – including Ester, shown below – joined Hillel and the Jewish Student Union for the annual Holocaust Remembrance event reading the names of Holocaust victims, so that we will never forget. I thank Amanda Herring and Hannah Lexer of Hillel for organizing this event.



The congregation has for some time now been making investments to improve our safety within our building. With support from a grant from FEMA, we have installed safety lighting, monitoring cameras, and coverings over the stained-glass windows. Installation of tempered glass windows downstairs is in process. Al Kornhauser has led this effort and deserves our praise. A committee to be led by Rebecca Scheckler will develop standard operating procedures and train us up on them. Stay tuned.

Gary Long has stepped up to become our President-Elect. Thanks, Gary!

Shalom, Eric, BJCC President

PJ LIBRARY UPDATES

PJ Library has been getting Jewish-themed books into the hands of Jewish kids ages six months to 8 years since December 2005. The BJCC became one of PJ Library’s community sponsors about 12 years ago, serving children in Montgomery, Giles, Floyd, Craig, and Pulaski counties and the city of Radford. Over the years, we’ve had a total of 107 subscribers from 64 different families.

Now, we’re beginning to write the next chapter of this exciting saga! PJ sends us books for all ages, including adults, as a thank you for our partnership. The Sunday School utilizes some of these books, but we still have an abundance of

volumes that haven’t been accessible until recently, when we installed shelves and book bins in the BJCC. Our two book nooks offer something for everyone, so check them out! We have a book nook in the sanctuary vestibule and a larger nook in the downstairs multi-purpose room.

There are books for adults and for older children in both locations. Upstairs, for younger children, are books about Shabbat and Jewish values; books about Israel (some in Hebrew!); and books about Passover, Shavuot, Lag B’Omer and summer camp. In addition, the upstairs book nook has a giant game based on the Israel Trail that is designed to be played outdoors.

The downstairs book nook has the same categories—and more. The books that are in the two nooks are different. We receive a new book each month, so the collection will change and expand over time.

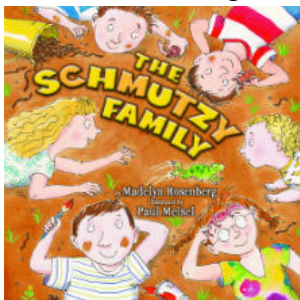
How to Use our System

- 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.

The white bins have all kinds of books for adults, including fiction, memoirs, a history of Israel, and multiple recipe books. The teal bins have a mix of genres as well, including historical fiction and biographies.

We ask that you fill out a book card for the Israel Trail game and the small number of books that have library cards. Leave the card in the hot pink book return bin. Books with library cards are books that we would like you to return when you have finished reading them, but there is no time limit on how long you keep them.

We have multiple copies of all of Madelyn Rosenberg’s PJ books, which are incorporated across the collections. We do ask that you use the library card to check out Madelyn’s books, and that you return them when your child has finished. *The Schmutzy Family* is with Shabbat books. *Take Care* and *Happy Birthday, Tree!* are in the Tu B’Shevat/Purim bins. *Not Your All-American Girl* and *This Is Just a Test* are in the teal bins for ages 9+.



Let’s take advantage of these wonderful resources! Want to know more about the man who rescued over a million Yiddish books? Look in the downstairs white bin for *Outwitting History*. Need some new recipes for Shavuot? Both white bins have copies of *Tastes of Jewish Tradition* and *Jewish Holidays Cookbook*.

Is Hebrew one of your languages? Both book nooks have a selection of books in Hebrew that you can read to your children or grandchildren. The Hebrew books are in the bin with books about Israel.

Israel’s Independence Day is approaching – the upstairs book nook has a GIANT game based on the Israel Trail, designed to be played outside. Want to invite a couple of families over for a pot luck for Israel’s Independence Day or for Shavuot? If you are a PJ family, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation will give you a Get-Together Grant of \$100 to do something Jewish with another family. Info can be found in both book nooks and on the PJ website: pjlibrary.org, which also has a wealth of resources that are available to anyone.

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2023–24

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
	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
BJCC listserv keeper	Open	
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	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu
<i>Shofar</i> Editor		

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 23 Nisan 8th day of the Omer	2 24 Nisan 9th day of the Omer	3 25 Nisan 10th day of the Omer	4 26 Nisan Parashat Acharei Mot 11th day of the Omer Zoom service
5 27 Nisan 12th day of the Omer	6 28 Nisan Yom HaShoah 13th day of the Omer	7 29 Nisan 14th day of the Omer	8 30 Nisan Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 15th day of the Omer	9 1 Iyyar Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 16th day of the Omer	10 2 Iyyar 17th day of the Omer	11 3 Iyyar Parashat Kedoshim 18th day of the Omer Zoom service
12 4 Iyyar 19th day of the Omer	13 5 Iyyar Yom HaZikaron 20th day of the Omer	14 6 Iyyar Yom HaAtzma'ut 21st day of the Omer	15 7 Iyyar 22nd day of the Omer	16 8 Iyyar 23rd day of the Omer	17 9 Iyyar 24th day of the Omer	18 10 Iyyar Parashat Emor 25th day of the Omer BJCC and streamed AND potluck lunch after service
19 11 Iyyar 26th day of the Omer	20 12 Iyyar 27th day of the Omer	21 13 Iyyar 28th day of the Omer	22 14 Iyyar Pesach Sheni 29th day of the Omer	23 15 Iyyar 30th day of the Omer	24 16 Iyyar 31st day of the Omer Deadline for May issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	25 17 Iyyar Parashat Behar 32nd day of the Omer Zoom servicer
26 18 Iyyar Lag BaOmer 33rd day of the Omer	27 19 Iyyar 34th day of the Omer	28 20 Iyyar 35th day of the Omer	29 21 Iyyar 36th day of the Omer	30 22 Iyyar 37th day of the Omer	31 23 Iyyar 38th day of the Omer	