
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

August 2025 / Av-Elul 5785



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
Blacksburg, VA 24063 (540) 300-BJCC
Website: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Aug. 2–Devarim–B. Klein (Zoom)
Aug. 9–Vaetchanan–M&S Kranowski (Zoom)
Aug. 16–Eikev–E. Hallerman (BJCC & live-streamed)
Aug. 23–Re'eh–M. Brinberg (Zoom)
Aug. 30–Shoftim–R&S Scheckler (at Nellies Cave Shelter) **followed by a potluck lunch

A VARIETY OF SERVICES IN AUGUST

We'll have three Zoom services plus one in-person service at the BJCC. At the end of the month, we will enjoy an outdoor service at Nellies Cave Park shelter.

OUTDOOR POTLUCK LUNCH, AUG. 30

The Aug 30 service at Nellies Cave Park will conclude with a potluck picnic lunch. You can come for the service at 10:00 AM and bring your potluck dish in an insulated container, or drop by at about 11:15 AM with your dish and join us for lunch. The BJCC will supply bagels and cream cheese as well as serving utensils. Note, there's a grill at the shelter and a well-equipped playground adjacent to it. Do join us for our final outdoor service and last picnic potluck of summer 2025.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, AUG. 24

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

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for the donations to the BJCC from:

- Maryanne Knutson
- Marta Brinberg
- Steve Jacobs
- Stephen Scheckler
- Anonymous

PJ LIBRARY INFORMATION

Our book nooks, located upstairs and downstairs at the BJCC, offer something for everyone. Check out the **teal bins for readers over age 9**, which include graphic novels, historical fiction, choose-your-own-ending books, realistic fiction, and biographies. The **white bins offer a variety of books for adults**, including memoirs, books on parenting, a history of Israel, and several excellent cookbooks and activity books. The **blue bins have books for children ages 6 months to 8 years**, divided by topics, which include Shabbat, High Holidays, Hanukkah, Passover/Shavuot/Lag B'Omer/Summer Camp, Tu B'Shevat/ Purim, Israel/Books in Hebrew, and Jewish Values. We also have two outdoor games based on the Israel Trail, as well as tabletop versions. We ask that you check out and return the large Israel Trail games and the books with a library book card. There is no time limit on how long you may keep the books; just fill in your name on the book card and drop it in the **hot pink bin**, where you may also return books. Below is a graphic to summarize all this info. Happy reading!

How to Use our Book Nooks for PJ Library

- Color Coding
 - Teal bins—ages 9+.
 - Royal blue ages 6 months to 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, such as theme, genre, and the last date it was sent to PJ subscribers.
- Please check out and return books and games with a library book card. Cards and returns can be left in the hot pink bins.

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2025–26

(Officers are definite; some committee chairs need to be verified.)

President	Aaron Goldstein	Goldst [at] vt.edu
President–elect (V.P.)	Open	
Past Presidents	Gary Long	glong [at] vt.edu
	Eric Hallerman	ehallerm [at] vt.edu
Treasurer	Marta Brinberg	martabrinberg [at] hotmail.com
Secretary	Maddy Keese	mekeese [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
	Sharone Tomer	Sharoneltomer [at] gmail.com
	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
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Religious school directors	Gil & Nicole Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

August 2025

Av – Elul 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					7th of Av	1 2 8th of Av Shabbat Chazon Erev Tish'a B'Av Parashat Devarim Zoom service
3 9th of Av Tish'a B'Av	4 10th of Av	5 11th of Av	6 12th of Av	7 13th of Av	8 14th of Av	9 15th of Av Tu B'Av Shabbat Nachamu Parashat Vaetchanan Zoom service
10 16th of Av	11 17th of Av	12 18th of Av	13 19th of Av	14 20th of Av	15 21st of Av	16 22nd of Av Parashat Elkev At BJCC and live-streamed service
17 23rd of Av	18 24th of Av	19 25th of Av	20 26th of Av	21 27th of Av	22 28th of Av	23 29th of Av Parashat Re'eh Zoom service
24 30th of Av Rosh Chodesh Elul Deadline for news for September Shofar	25 1st of Elul, 5785 Rosh Hashana LaBehemot Rosh Chodesh Elul	26 2nd of Elul	27 3rd of Elul	28 4th of Elul	29 5th of Elul	30 6th of Elul Parashat Shoftim At Nellies Cave shelter, followed by potluck lunch. (No live- streaming.)