

# THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

October 2025 / Tishrei-Cheshvan 5786



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



## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Oct. 4–Haazinu–R&S Scheckler (Zoom)  
Oct. 11–Sukkot–E. Hallerman (BJCC and live-streamed) \*\*followed by a potluck lunch  
Oct. 18–Breishit–M&S Kranowski (Zoom)  
Oct. 25–Noach–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

## SHABBAT SERVICES IN-PERSON & ONLINE

We'll have one in-person (and live-streamed) service, followed by a potluck lunch. Since this event will take place during the week of Sukkot, we may be able to have part of the lunch in the Sukkah, weather and logistics permitting. The other services will all be online.

## POTLUCK LUNCH ON OCT. 11

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Oct. 11. 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 AM. Please bring a vegetarian or kosher-fish dish to share. If you come for the service, your dish can be refrigerated and/or heated in the oven so it's at the best temperature for serving.

## UPCOMING YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

All Yom Kippur services will be held at the BJCC and will also be live-streamed. Irv Gertner will return as our guest hazzan. See the accompanying article for details on attendance, admission, and Zoom links.

### *Yom Kippur*

Erev YK, Oct 1, 7:30 PM.

Daytime YK, Oct. 2, 9:30 AM.

Neilah, Oct. 2, 6:30 PM \*\*followed by a simple break-the-fast meal supplied by the BJCC.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year, 5786!

We have a few upcoming events, and I hope you can join us. First, our Yom Kippur services will be held on Wed. and Thurs., Oct. 1 and 2, followed by a traditional break-the-fast meal. Then, on Sat. Oct. 4, we will set up the sukkah so our Sunday School families can decorate it on Oct. 5 for their enjoyment and for use during our potluck lunch on Oct. 11.

In addition, if you're looking for a mitzvah for the new year, please consider making a donation to the Interfaith Food Pantry. We are currently collecting both food and monetary donations.

Prez Aaron

## HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our HHD services are free to all, but donations to help defray the costs of these services are greatly appreciated.

In-person: The front door is kept locked. BJCC members can open it with a keycode or, up to 15 minutes after the service begins, knock on the door. All others require prior approval; please see our website at [www.bjccblacksburg.org/religious-services](http://www.bjccblacksburg.org/religious-services) for details. (A "Donate" button is at the bottom of the page.)

Online: If you are not a member and not on the friends listserv, to request the Zoom link, email [murielk@vt.edu](mailto:murielk@vt.edu) or [ehallerm@vt.edu](mailto:ehallerm@vt.edu) for Yom Kippur.

## SHOFAR DEADLINE, OCT. 24

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

BJCC members at the NAACP  
Freedom Fund Banquet on Sept. 27



## THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for the donations to the BJCC.

To the general fund

- Irv Gertner
- Anonymous

To the NAACP Freedom Fund

- Linda Deemer
- Ruth Grene
- Eric and Ester Hallerman
- Irene Jacobs
- Steve Jacobs
- Stephen and Rebecca Scheckler

For the PJ Library

- Thank you to Susan Herschler of Bristow, VA, for her donation to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in support of our PJ Library program. The donation honors Hannah, Norah, Eden, Elijah, Savannah, and Joanna Herschler.

## DUES

Please pay BJCC dues promptly. Member dues are \$800 per year for families and \$400 per year for single households. Our BJCC treasurer encourages members to pay their dues via PayPal or by mailing them to: Blacksburg Jewish Community Center (BJCC), PO Box 782, Blacksburg, VA 24063-0782. As always, individuals and families can privately discuss dues reductions with Treasurer Marta Brinberg. The BJCC's mission is to serve the needs of the Jewish community in the New River Valley. No one will be turned away due to a lack of financial resources.

## FOOD DRIVE

*High Holy Days Food Drive 2025 in support of the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP)*

Contributions needed by the Blacksburg IFP include: canned goods such as fruits, vegetables (e.g., green beans, corn, carrots, beets), beans, pasta (e.g., Spaghetti-O's, ravioli), spaghetti sauce, soup, and tuna. Packaged items, such as dry beans (e.g., pinto, lima), rice, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, boxed sugar, powdered milk, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal, are also welcome. Cash donations are appreciated. Please make checks payable to Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry or visit <http://www.bjccblacksburg.org> and click the "Donate" button to link to PayPal. Please email Marta Brinberg with your donation details. Leave food or check donations in the BJCC social room by Yom Kippur. Questions? Contact Marta Brinberg at [martabrinberg@hotmail.com](mailto:martabrinberg@hotmail.com).

## PJ BOOK NOOK INFO

Check out our PJ Book Nooks when you are at the BJCC during the High Holidays. They are located upstairs in the sanctuary vestibule and downstairs in the multipurpose room. The bins are color-coded: white for adults, teal for individuals aged 9 and above, royal blue for children aged 6 months to 8 years, and hot pink for returns and book check-out cards.

Featured this month for adults is *If All the Seas Were Ink*, Ilana Kurshan's memoir of her study of the Talmud. It is located in the white bin upstairs. In the white bin downstairs, look for *My Jewish Year: 14 Holidays, One Wondering Jew* by Abigail Pogrebin, in which she describes her year-long search for a more authentic taste of Judaism.

Ages 9+ should check out *The Inquisitor's Tale* in the teal bin upstairs. The story is set in medieval France and tells how three magical children meet and become outlaws. It was named a Newbery Honor book in 2017. A *New York Times* bestseller, it won the Sydney Taylor Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries and was a finalist for the Jewish Book Council's Award for Children's Literature.

For ages 10 and up in the downstairs book nook, we have *The Spanish Plot*, set in Spain in 1492. This is a choose-your-own-adventure book with multiple paths as you attempt to help your young friend, Yitzchak, whose grandfather is trying to save Spanish Jews. The book can be found in the teal PJOW bin downstairs.

For children aged 6 months to 8 years, we have a wide variety of books about the High Holidays in the royal blue bins, located both upstairs and downstairs. *Today Is the Birthday of the World* (ages 2-3), *Red, Blue and Yellow Yarn* (ages 4-5), and *Even Higher!* (ages 7-8) are in both locations. For Sukkot, you can find *Vanishing Gourds* and *A Watermelon in the Sukkah* in both book nooks, as well as many other excellent reads.

The PJ Library website, [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org), offers numerous resources that can be utilized by all, including a downloadable copy of *A Time to Grow: A PJ Library Family Guide for Starting the Jewish Year*, located here: <https://pjlibrary.org/highholidays>. (We do have multiple copies of this book in the white bins in the book nooks.) Look under the Explore tab on the PJ Library homepage for recipes, activities, book recommendations, and even podcasts.



**Yom Kippur**

### 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; topics are labeled on the front of the bin.
  - White bins—adults.
  - Hot pink bin—for book cards and returns.
- Each bin has a QR code on the left side; scan it to view a list of books in that bin, including photos of the covers, titles, and suggested age ranges.
  - 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 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      |
|                            | Sharone Tomer          | Sharoneltomer [at] gmail.com   |
|                            | Rebecca Scheckler      | 3050hawks [at] gmail.com       |
| BJCC listserv keeper       | Open                   |                                |
| Membership Chair           | Sean Sidky             | ssidky [at] vt.edu             |
| Religious school directors | Simona Fried           | sfried90 [at] gmail.com        |
|                            | Gil Hersch             | gil251 [at] gmail.com          |
| Education director         | Richard Hirsh          | richard [at] vt.edu            |
| <i>Shofar</i> Editor       |                        |                                |

# October 2025

Tishrei – Cheshvan 5786

| Sunday                                           | Monday                                                    | Tuesday                                        | Wednesday                                                           | Thursday                                                                      | Friday                                            | Saturday                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                  |                                                           |                                                | 1<br>9th of Tishrei<br><b>Erev Yom Kippur</b><br>Service at 7:30 PM | 2<br>10th of Tishrei<br><b>Yom Kippur</b><br>Services at 9:30 AM and 6:30 PM. | 3<br>11th of Tishrei                              | 4<br>12th of Tishrei<br><b>Parashat Haazinu</b><br>Zoom service                                                     |
| 5<br>13th of Tishrei                             | 6<br>14th of Tishrei<br><b>Erev Sukkot</b>                | 7<br>15th of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot I</b>        | 8<br>16th of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot II</b>                            | 9<br>17th of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot III (CH"M)</b>                              | 10<br>18th of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot IV (CH"M)</b>  | 11<br>19th of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot V (CH"M)</b><br>Service at BJCC and live-streamed with a potluck lunch following |
| 12<br>20th of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot VI (CH"M)</b> | 13<br>21st of Tishrei<br><b>Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba)</b> | 14<br>22nd of Tishrei<br><b>Shmini Atzeret</b> | 15<br>23rd of Tishrei<br><b>Simchat Torah</b>                       | 16<br>24th of Tishrei                                                         | 17<br>25th of Tishrei                             | 18<br>26th of Tishrei<br><b>Parashat Breishit</b><br>Zoom service                                                   |
| 19<br>27th of Tishrei                            | 20<br>28th of Tishrei                                     | 21<br>29th of Tishrei                          | 22<br>30th of Tishrei                                               | 23<br>1st of Cheshvan, 5786                                                   | 24<br>2nd of Cheshvan<br>Deadline for Nov. Shofar | 25<br>3rd of Cheshvan<br><b>Parashat Noach</b><br>Zoom service                                                      |
| 26<br>4th of Cheshvan                            | 27<br>5th of Cheshvan                                     | 28<br>6th of Cheshvan                          | 29<br>7th of Cheshvan                                               | 30<br>8th of Cheshvan                                                         | 31<br>9th of Cheshvan                             |                                                                                                                     |

Diaspora holidayschedule

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