

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

November 2025 / Cheshvan-Kislev 5786



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]

Nov. 1–Lech Lecha–R&S Scheckler (Zoom)
Nov. 8–Vayera–B. Klein (Zoom)
Nov. 15–Chayei Sarah–R&S Scheckler (BJCC & live-streamed) ** followed by a potluck lunch
Nov. 22–Toldot–E. Hallerman (Zoom)
Nov. 29–Vayeitzei–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

SERVICES MOSTLY ONLINE IN NOV.

Because of VT home games and service leaders' availability, this month we'll have only one in-person service (with live streaming whose audio problem we hope we have fixed), and it will be followed by a potluck lunch. The other Shabbat services will all be on Zoom.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON NOV. 15

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Nov. 15. 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 to the best serving temperature.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, NOV. 24

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

Master craftsmen building the sukkah in October.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

As I'm writing this message, the weather has suddenly turned from summer warmth to the onset of winter. Our sukkah just came down, and we owe a huge thanks to all who were involved in setting it up and decorating it.

I hope you can attend our next monthly potluck on Sat., Nov. 15, when Dr. Sean Sidky, Visiting Assistant Professor in Judaic Studies at Virginia Tech, will give a presentation. Also in the coming month, the Montgomery County Christmas store will begin collecting items, including warm clothes, for those in need in our area. Meanwhile, the Interfaith Food Pantry continues to collect and distribute food. If you'd like to help with either of these community efforts, please contact Ruth Grene (whose contact information is on the last page of the *Shofar*).

Prez Aaron

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for the donations to the BJCC.

To the Interfaith Food Pantry, a total of \$6,137.51 in checks and nine bags of food and supplies from:

- David and Marta Brinberg
- Linda Deemer
- Aaron Goldstein
- Steve Jacobs
- Leslie Kay and William Floyd
- Eric and Ester Hallerman
- Al Kornhauser and Rhea Epstein
- Brad and Rita Klein
- Muriel Kranowski
- Leo and Ellen Piilonen
- Cynthia Rosenbaum
- Dan and Pam Sable
- Ed Tuchler
- Stephen and Rebecca Scheckler
- Maddy Schreiber
- Richard and Doris Zallen
- Anonymous

DUES—DON'T FORGET!

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 Jewish community in the New River Valley. No one will be turned away due to a lack of financial resources.

PJ BOOK NOOK INFO

This month, I'd like to explore the "Jewish Values" category for our youngest readers. Both book nooks will have a blue bin labeled "Jewish Values," available for the next six weeks.

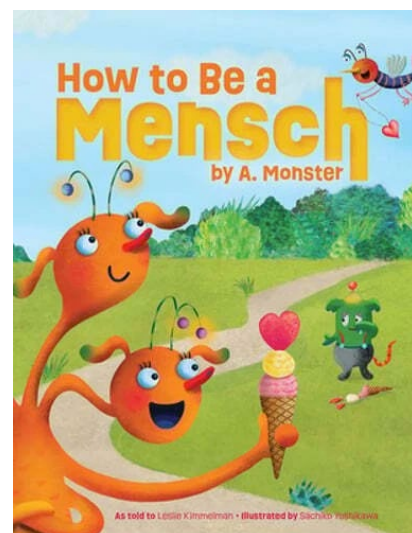
"Jewish Values" is a broad category that includes stories from the Torah, as well as folktales, and other books that feature a lifecycle event, a mitzvah or a Jewish value, such as kindness to strangers, as a theme. In our upstairs book nook, you can find *The Shema in the Mezuzah*, *The Magic Pomegranate: A Jewish*

Folktale, *How to be a Mensch*, *Bone Button Borscht*, *Jonah*, *Pavel and the Tree Army*, and *Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg* (the first Jewish player inducted into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame).

The Jewish Values bin downstairs includes *The Fabulous Tale of Fish and Chips* (did you know that British Jews created fish & chips?), *Uncle Eli's*

Wedding, *A Mezuzah on the Door*, as well as copies of many of the books that are also found upstairs.

Both book nooks have a wide variety of books for adults in the white bins and books for ages 9-13 in the teal bins. Happy reading! --Suzan



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
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Secretary	Maddy Keesee	mekeesee [at] gmail.com
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Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
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	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
BJCC listserv keeper	Open	
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	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Education director	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu
<i>Shofar</i> Editor		

November 2025

Cheshvan – Kislev 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10th of Cheshvan Parashat Lech-Lecha Zoom service
2 11th of Cheshvan	3 12th of Cheshvan	4 13th of Cheshvan	5 14th of Cheshvan	6 15th of Cheshvan	7 16th of Cheshvan	8 17th of Cheshvan Parashat Vayera Zoom service
9 18th of Cheshvan	10 19th of Cheshvan	11 20th of Cheshvan	12 21st of Cheshvan	13 22nd of Cheshvan	14 23rd of Cheshvan	15 24th of Cheshvan Parashat Chayei Sarah In-person service (with live streaming) and potluck lunch
16 25th of Cheshvan	17 26th of Cheshvan	18 27th of Cheshvan	19 28th of Cheshvan	20 29th of Cheshvan Sigd	21 1st of Kislev, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Kislev	22 2nd of Kislev Parashat Toldot Zoom service
23 3rd of Kislev	24 4th of Kislev Deadline for Dec. issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	25 5th of Kislev	26 6th of Kislev	27 7th of Kislev	28 8th of Kislev	29 9th of Kislev Parashat Vayeitzei Zoom service
30 10th of Kislev						