

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

January 2026 / Tevet-Sh'vat 5786



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
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Website: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Jan. 3—Vayechi—R&S Scheckler (Zoom)
Jan. 10—Shemot—S&M Kranowski (Zoom)
Jan. 17—Vaera—B. Klein (Zoom)
Jan. 24—Bo—M. Brinberg (BJCC and live-streamed)
**followed by a potluck lunch
Jan. 31—B'Shallach—E. Hallerman (Zoom)

SERVICES MOSTLY ONLINE IN JANUARY

Most services this month are via Zoom. On Jan. 24, we'll have an in-person service at the BJCC, followed by a potluck lunch. Let's hope that it won't be derailed by winter weather.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON JAN. 24

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Jan. 24. You can bring a 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.

VOLUNTEER AT INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Members of the BJCC will be volunteering at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Mon., Jan. 12. If you would like to join us for this Mitzvah, please get in touch with Linda Deemer. Let's contribute to a happy new year for the community.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, JAN. 23

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Jan. 23. Send information to Richard at richard [at] vt.edu.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

This is the time for New Year's resolutions, and I want to share one with you that I've been making each year for the past few years. Before I speak, I try to consider how the listener might interpret what I'm saying. Maybe I'm saying something funny or light-hearted, but will my audience hear it that way? Sometimes, I run the phrase through my mind a few times before deciding whether to say it—or not. I may not always succeed in being sensitive to others' feelings, but I haven't broken my resolution because it starts with "I try."

I hope you all have a warm and happy New Year and are successful with your own resolutions.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for the donations to the BJCC.

To the general fund:

- Muriel Kranowski, in memory of Nat Kranowski
- Alan Ullman, in memory of Ms. Claire Klein, mother of Brad Klein
- Marcia Shumsky
- Kenneth and Judith Yalowitz

To Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

- Richard and Doris Zallen
- Bill Floyd and Leslie Kay



PJ BOOK NOOK INFO

Our downstairs book nook has a new addition for adults, found in the white bin—*The Triumph of Life: A Narrative Theology of Judaism*, by Rabbi Irving Greenberg. Good Reads describes it as “Rabbi Irving Greenberg’s magnum opus—a narrative of the relationship between God and humanity expressed in the Jewish journey through modernity, the Holocaust, the creation of Israel, and the birth of Judaism’s next era.” This edition was given to all PJ local sponsor organizations because PJ’s founder, Harold Grinspoon, found it especially thought-provoking. Check it out and see what you think.

Our blue bins contain many books for ages 6 months–8 years, grouped by categories, including Israel/books in Hebrew; Jewish values; Shabbat; Tu

B’Shevat/Purim, to name a few. The teal bins have books for ages 9+ and, in addition to lots of fiction, you can find biographies of Gal Gadot, Albert Einstein, Ralph Lauren, the Three Stooges, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Harry Houdini upstairs. Downstairs, we have biographies of Ilan Ramon, Judy Blume, Stan Lee, RBG, and a different bio of Einstein.

Happy Reading! Suzan

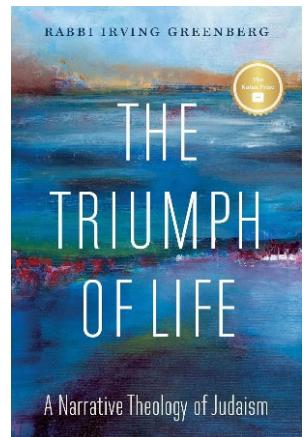


Image from Amazon.com

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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Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
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Social Chair	Open	
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Board members—at-large	Bradley and Rita Klein	bklein [at] vt.edu
	Cindy Rosenbaum	cbrosenb [at] hotmail.com
	Sharone Tomer	Sharoneltomer [at] gmail.com
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	Simona Fried	sfried90 [at] gmail.com
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<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

January 2026

Tevet – Sh'vat 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday		Saturday
					12th of Tevet	1	13th of Tevet	2
15th of Tevet	4 16th of Tevet	5 17th of Tevet	6 18th of Tevet	7 19th of Tevet	8 20th of Tevet	9	10 21st of Tevet Parashat Shemot Zoom service	
22nd of Tevet	11 23rd of Tevet	12 24th of Tevet	13 25th of Tevet	14 26th of Tevet	15 27th of Tevet	16	17 28th of Tevet Parashat Vaera Zoom service	
29th of Tevet	18 1st of Sh'vat, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	19 2nd of Sh'vat	20 3rd of Sh'vat	21 4th of Sh'vat	22 5th of Sh'vat Deadline for Feb. issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	23	24 6th of Sh'vat Parashat Bo In-person service at BJCC and potluck lunch	
7th of Sh'vat	25 8th of Sh'vat	26 9th of Sh'vat	27 10th of Sh'vat	28 11th of Sh'vat	29 12th of Sh'vat	30	31 13th of Sh'vat Parashat B'Shallach Zoom service	

Diaspora holidays schedule

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