

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

April 2026 / Nisan-Iyyar 5786



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Apr. 4–3rd day Passover–B. Klein (Zoom)

Apr. 11–Shemini–Brinberg–Kranowski (Zoom)

Apr. 18–Tazria–Metzora–E. Hallerman (in-person & live-streamed) **followed by potluck lunch

Apr. 25–Acharei Mot–Kedoshim–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

SERVICES MOSTLY ONLINE IN MARCH

After the first (online) Shabbat service in April, which falls in the middle of Pesach, we continue in the book of Leviticus with two Zoom services and one in-person service with a potluck lunch on April 18.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON APRIL 18

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., April 18. You can bring a dish with you (please plan to arrive downstairs 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 or heated in the oven to the best serving temperature.

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for the donations to the BJCC.

To the general fund:

- Irvin Gertner and Carol Fisher, to honor the memory of mother-in-law Eleanor Fisher.
- Anonymous.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, APRIL 24

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

Passover is nearly upon us, and that means it's time to hide away the chametz. Personally, I've always tied this activity to spring cleaning, that annual ritual of hiding away the warm blankets, bringing out the summer clothes, and maybe getting rid of items with "best before" dates that we can reminisce about.

In addition, doing physical activities around the house clears my mind of everything that's going on, though sometimes that doesn't work. In the latter case, I might sing an old Beatles song: "I'm fixing a hole where the rain gets in ... It really doesn't matter if I'm right or wrong ... Silly people run around ... and never ask me why they don't get through my door." These are timeless lyrics for crazy times.

Anyway, I hope you all have a wonderful seder with family and friends. And if you don't have anyone to spend it with, consider joining Hillel at Virginia Tech on Wed, April 1.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

PJ BOOK NOOK INFO, FROM SUZAN ANTIN

Happy Passover! Let our Book Nooks help you celebrate Pesach this year. The white bins have copies of *In Every Generation: The PJ Library Family Haggadah*, which you can also download here: <https://pjlibrary.org/haggadah>.

A generous donor has purchased three additional copies of *Tastes of Jewish Tradition*, a wonderful resource for all of the holidays. It is brimming with read-aloud stories, craft ideas, and lots of recipes. These are available in the white bins as well.

The blue bins have books about Passover, Shavuot, and summer camp and are appropriate for children up to age 8. For older readers, in the teal bin upstairs, check out *Viva, Rose!* or *Not Your All-American Girl*, which weave Passover into their stories. In the teal fiction bin downstairs, we have *The War I Finally*

Won, Mitzvah the Mutt, and another copy of *Not Your All-American Girl* (by Madelyn Rosenberg, who grew up at the BJCC). All of these books incorporate

Passover into their plots. There is also a teal bin of non-fiction books in the downstairs book nook. 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; 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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	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu
Education director		
<i>Shofar</i> Editor		

April 2026

Nisan – Iyyar 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 14th of Nisan Erev Pesach 	2 15th of Nisan Pesach I	3 16th of Nisan Pesach II	4 17th of Nisan Pesach III Zoom service
5 18th of Nisan Pesach IV	6 19th of Nisan Pesach V	7 20th of Nisan Pesach VI	8 21st of Nisan Pesach VII	9 22nd of Nisan Pesach VIII	10 23rd of Nisan	11 24th of Nisan Parashat Shemini Zoom service
12 25th of Nisan	13 26th of Nisan	14 27th of Nisan Yom HaShoah	15 28th of Nisan	16 29th of Nisan	17 30th of Nisan Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	18 1st of Iyyar, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar Parashat Tazria-Metzora In-person and live-streamed service, followed by potluck lunch
19 2nd of Iyyar	20 3rd of Iyyar	21 4th of Iyyar Yom HaZikaron	22 5th of Iyyar Yom HaAtzma'ut	23 6th of Iyyar	24 7th of Iyyar Deadline for submission of items for May <i>Shofar</i>	25 8th of Iyyar Parashat Acharei M Kedoshim Zoom service
26 9th of Iyyar	27 10th of Iyyar	28 11th of Iyyar	29 12th of Iyyar	30 13th of Iyyar		

Diaspora holiday schedule

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