THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC November 2026 / Cheshvan-Kislev 5787

Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
Blacksburg, VA 24063
Website: https://www.bjccblacksburg.org; Email: info.blacksburgbjcc [at] gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]
Nov. 7–Chayei Sarah–E. Hallerman (BJCC and live-streamed **followed by potluck lunch
Nov. 14–Toldot–B. Klein (Zoom)
Nov. 21–Vayeitzei–M. Brinberg (Zoom)
Nov. 28–Vayishlach–E. Hallerman (Zoom)

MOSTLY ONLINE SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

We'll meet in person at the BJCC for the first Shabbat service of the month, followed by a potluck lunch. The last three Shabbat services in November will be held via Zoom.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON NOV. 7

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Nov. 7. You can bring a dish (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 proper serving temperature.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, NOV. 23

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

MAH JONGG AT BJCC, NOV. 1, 15, AND 29

If you'd like to join the Mah Jongg email list, contact Suzan Antin at suzan_antin [at] yahoo.com (with an underscore between the first and last names) or text her at 540-415-8672. We'll be playing at the BJCC on the following dates:

Sun., Nov. 1, 1:30–3:30 PM
Sun., Nov. 15, 1:30–3:30 PM
Sun., Nov. 29, 1:30–3:30 PM

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fall is upon the Blacksburg community. It brings us cooler weather and a resurgence of visitors to our town. Weekends are abuzz with activity when VT home games are played.

We are used to autumn bringing us falling leaves. But this year is a bit different: the BJCC building has falling bricks after a three-car, after-hours collision at the intersection of Church and Roanoke Streets. (Happily, no injuries occurred.) After being alerted to the accident, our security team reviewed the incident video (from the BJCC cameras) and shared it with town police. The collision caused significant damage to the outer NW-facing wall and the stairwell steps to the main doors. For safety reasons, we removed the fallen bricks and stored them. Many BJCC members helped remove as much of the building material as possible and saved it for the forthcoming repair work.

We have been in contact with the insurance agencies of the drivers involved. The process is very slow.

We want to thank the BJCC security team for its work with the incident video and the members who worked diligently to remove and store the damaged bricks.

Our contractor (from the BJCC) is gathering the information the insurance companies need. While we don't have a work schedule yet, we'll let you know when work will begin and when it's complete.

Shalom, Prez Gary

BJCC EMAIL ADDRESS

Please check your email address books. Our proper email address is info.blacksburgbjcc [at] gmail.com. Please use this address going forward.



THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for these donations to the BJCC:

To the Interfaith Food Pantry

- Richard and Doris Zallen

To the NAACP

- Aaron Goldstein
- Marta Brinberg
- Al Kornhauser & Rhea Epstein
- Ed Tuchler

To the General Fund

- Debora Schneller
- Marcia Shumsky
- Joshua, Shamira, and Adam Shallom in honor of Sharon and Mir's wedding
- Lynda Chamowitz
- Judith Yalowitz
- Ruben Alexander & Diaz Rodriguez

BOOK NOOK

We have a variety of nonfiction books for all ages in our book nooks. For adults, in the white bins, look for Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth by Noa Tishby; Jewish Holidays Cookbook; and Tastes of Jewish Tradition. All of these are available in both book nooks.

Downstairs, we have *Outwitting History*, Aaron Lansky's memoir about rescuing a million Yiddish books; *Nurture the Wow*, in which author Danya Ruttenberg shows how parenting can be a spiritual practice; and *The Triumph of Life: A Narrative Theology of Judaism* by Rabbi Irving Greenberg.

For ages 9+, in the basement, there is a teal bin of nonfiction that includes biographies of Ilan Ramon, Gal Gadot, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Albert Einstein, Harry Houdini, Judy Blume, Stan Lee, Ralph Lauren, and the Three Stooges. We also have a wonderful book called *How to Be a Mensch*, a how-to guide for adulting—including how to write a thank-you note, how to make a bed, and more.

For younger readers, in the royal blue Jewish values bin downstairs, we have *Itzhak: A Boy Who Loved the Violin*, *Doctor Esperanto and the Language of Hope*, *Judah Touro Didn't Want to be Famous*, and *Jean Laffite: The Pirate Who Saved America*. Upstairs, also in the royal blue bin labeled "Jewish values," you can find *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, *A Picture for Marc (Chagall)*, and *Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg.*

If you scan the QR code on the side of each book bin, you will see a list of all the books in the bin, together with a photo of each book's cover, the recommended ages for young readers, and a summary of the themes or Jewish values in each book.

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 cover photos, 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. You can leave cards and returns in the hot pink bin.

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2026–27

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

President	Gary Long	glong [at] vt.edu
President-elect (V.P.)	Aaron Goldstein	thunserangst [at] gmail.com
Past Presidents	Aaron Goldstein	thunserangst [at] gmail.com
	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
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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	Sharone Tomer	sharoneltomer [at] gmail.com
	Molly Larson	
BJCC Listserv Keeper	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
Membership Chair	Open	
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Education Director	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Shofar Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

November 2026

Cheshvan – Kislev 5787

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 21st of Cheshvan Mah Jongg at BJCC 1:30 PM	**2** 22nd of Cheshvan	**3** 23rd of Cheshvan	**4** 24th of Cheshvan	**5** 25th of Cheshvan	**6** 26th of Cheshvan	**7** 27th of Cheshvan Parashat Chayei Sarah At BJCC and live-streamed, followed by potluck lunch
8 28th of Cheshvan	**9** 29th of Cheshvan Sigd	**10** 30th of Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Kislev	**11** 1st of Kislev, 5787 Rosh Chodesh Kislev	**12** 2nd of Kislev	**13** 3rd of Kislev	**14** 4th of Kislev Parashat Toldot Zoom service
15 5th of Kislev Mah Jongg at BJCC 1:30 PM	**16** 6th of Kislev	**17** 7th of Kislev	**18** 8th of Kislev	**19** 9th of Kislev	**20** 10th of Kislev	**21** 11th of Kislev Parashat Vayeitzei Zoom service
22 12th of Kislev	**23** 13th of Kislev Deadline for submissions to next issue of the *Shofar*	**24** 14th of Kislev	**25** 15th of Kislev	**26** 16th of Kislev	**27** 17th of Kislev	**28** 18th of Kislev Parashat Vayishlach Zoom service
29 19th of Kislev Mah Jongg at BJCC 1:30 PM	**30** 20th of Kislev					

Diaspora holiday schedule

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