
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

August 2026 / Av-Elul 5786



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
Blacksburg, VA 24063
Website: www.bjccblacksburg.org



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Aug. 1–Eikev–B. Klein (Zoom)

Aug. 8–Re'eh–E. Hallerman (BJCC and live-streamed)

Aug. 15–Shoftim–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

Aug. 22–Ki Teitzei–Bat Mitzvah service (BJCC)

Aug. 29–Ki Tavo–R&S Scheckler (Nellies Cave Park shelter) **Followed by a potluck lunch

ALL KINDS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

There's a lot of variety this month: two Zoom-only services; one service in the building and live-streamed; a Bat Mitzvah service; and our last outdoor service of the summer at Nellies Cave Park shelter, followed by a potluck lunch. We truly have something for everyone.

BAT MITZVAH SERVICE, AUG. 22

Sharone Tomer and Matthew Lawhead would like to announce the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Zoe Tomer-Lawhead, on Aug. 22, starting at 10:00 AM at the BJCC. All BJCC members and families are invited to attend and join us on this joyous occasion.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON AUG. 29 AT NELLIES CAVE PARK

Our potluck lunch this month will be held on Aug. 29 at Nellies Cave Park Shelter, which has no refrigeration. Bring your dish in your own cooler. As usual, make it vegan, vegetarian, or kosher fish.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, AUG. 24

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

A few of you may have seen me officiate at swimming meets. I've been working as a "starter" for the past few years, and last month I asked to be evaluated for USA Swimming national certification. The position is a bit complex because swimmers need to be in the right place to get a fair start. Some are ready, but others might be fidgeting with their goggles or watching their friends. The starter must evaluate the entire heat and make sure everyone is ready before saying "take your marks."

My evaluator had me run a session, and about halfway through, she chastised me for the mistakes I was making. This was compounded by a few of the other officials pointing out additional mistakes.

Has this type of criticism happened to you? Yeah, it put me on the defensive.

It took me a little while to figure out that my head wasn't in the right place. I had asked to be evaluated, and these officials were trying to help me become a better starter. So, I set aside my ego, tried to listen to what they were telling me, and—over the next three sessions—applied their suggestions and improved.

The point of this little story is that while we should strive to improve what we do, being receptive to feedback is essential.

I hope you have a great summer, and I'm looking forward to seeing you in the coming school year.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

THANKS FOR THE DONATION

We're grateful for this month's donation to the BJCC:

- Marta Brinberg, to the general fund.

EARLY INFO ABOUT 2026 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

All services will be held in person at the BJCC and will also be live-streamed. Stay tuned for further details in the September *Shofar*.

Rosh Hashanah

- Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30 PM–Erev RH
- Sat., Sept. 12, 9:30 AM–daytime service

Yom Kippur

- Sun., Sept. 20, 7:00 PM –Erev YK (Kol Nidrei)
- Mon., Sept. 21, 9:30 AM–daytime service and Yizkor
 - 7:00 PM–closing service (Neilah)

ORGANIZERS NEEDED FOR HHD EVENTS

Two long-standing High Holiday traditions at the BJCC are the dessert collation on Erev RH and the break-the-fast after Neilah. These events will take place this year only if volunteers organize them. A 2-person team for each event would be ideal. Please let Eric Hallerman (ehallerm@vt.edu) know if you would consider taking responsibility for either event.

PJ BOOK NOOK INFO

Don't forget to enjoy reading in the summer, with lots of great books in the PJ Book Nook.

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. Cards and returns can be left in the hot pink bin.

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2025–26

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

President	Aaron Goldstein	thunserangst [at] gmail.com
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 Keese	mekeese [at] gmail.com
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Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
Co-chair	Linda Deemer	lrdeemer [at] comcast.net
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Social Chair	Open	
Building Chair	Al Kornhauser	alkorn [at] vt.edu
Culture Chair	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [at] gmail.com
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	Sharone Tomer	sharoneltomer [at] gmail.com
	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		

August 2026

Av – Elul 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 18th of Av Parashat Eikev Zoom service
19th of Av 2	20th of Av 3	21st of Av 4	22nd of Av 5	23rd of Av 6	24th of Av 7	25th of Av 8 Parashat Re'eh At BJCC and live-streamed
26th of Av 9	27th of Av 10	28th of Av 11	29th of Av 12	30th of Av 13 Rosh Chodesh Elul	1st of Elul, 5786 14 Rosh Chodesh Elul	2nd of Elul 15 Parashat Shoftim Zoom service
3rd of Elul 16	4th of Elul 17	5th of Elul 18	6th of Elul 19	7th of Elul 20	8th of Elul 21	9th of Elul 22 Parashat Ki Teitzei Bat Mitzvah Service at BJCC
10th of Elul 23	11th of Elul 24 Deadline for Sept. issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	12th of Elul 25	13th of Elul 26	14th of Elul 27	15th of Elul 28	16th of Elul 29 Parashat Ki Tavo At Nellies Cave Park shelter
17th of Elul 30	18th of Elul 31					

Diaspora holidays schedule

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