

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

March 2026 / Adar-Nisan 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]

March 7–Ki Tisa–R&S Scheckler (Zoom)

March 14–Vayakhel–Pekudei–B. Klein (Zoom)

March 21–Vayikra–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

March 28–Tsav–E. Hallerman (BJCC and live-streamed) **followed by potluck lunch

SERVICES MOSTLY ONLINE IN MARCH

The first three services in March will be held via Zoom. On the last Saturday, we'll have services at the BJCC, live-streamed, followed by a potluck lunch.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON MARCH 28

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Mar. 28. 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 serve at the best temperature.

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for the donations to the BJCC.

To the general fund:

- Opal Cohen and Aunt Ortal in memory of Opal's mother and Ortal's sister, Einat Cohen.
- Rebecca Scheckler.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, MAR. 24

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

Purim starts at
sundown on
Mon., March 2.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

I'd like to thank the heroes in our community who perform acts of charity and service—*tzedakah*—not just when it is convenient, but when it is needed. I'm thinking of the parents of school-age children who had to stay home or rearrange their schedules when the county schools were closed for nearly two weeks last month. I'm thinking about our congregants who help every month at the Interfaith Food Pantry. I'm thinking of parents who selflessly care for their aging parents or serve as coaches, leaders, or volunteers in their children's extracurricular activities. And I'm thinking of all of the people who stepped out of the shadows and helped at our local swim meets.

Performing these acts also instills a tradition of *tzedakah* in our children and helps ensure that we will have another generation of active community contributors. Thanks to all of you.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

PJ BOOK NOOK INFO, FROM SUZAN ANTIN

Happy Purim! We have an abundance of resources for you in our book nooks. For younger children, you can find books about Purim in the blue bins. For adults, there are lots of recipe, story, and craft ideas in the white bins.

Thanks to generous donations from the Zeide-Horn, Rosenbaum-Wisnioski, and Tomer-Lawhead families, we now have a bounty of books for our older readers, ages 9 and up. I have organized the PJ Our Way books into fiction (stored in the teal bins upstairs and downstairs) and non-fiction (in the teal non-fiction bin downstairs). The non-fiction section includes biographies of Gal Gadot, Ilan



Ramon, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Albert Einstein, Stan Lee, Harry Houdini, the Three Stooges, Ralph Lauren, and Judy Blume. We also have a wonderful book called *How to Be a Mensch*, which offers



practical advice on everything a young adult needs to do—from making a bed to cheering up someone who is sick, and writing a thank-you note. On a lighter note, we also feature *The Best Kids' Jewish Holiday Jokes Ever!*

Wishing you a Happy Purim and 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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Secretary	Maddy Keesee	mekeesee [at] gmail.com
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Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
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Culture Chair	Rebecca Scheckler	3050hawks [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		

March 2026

Adar – Nisan 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12th of Adar	1 13th of Adar Erev Purim	2 14th of Adar Purim	3 15th of Adar Shushan Purim	4 16th of Adar	5 17th of Adar	6 18th of Adar Shabbat Parah Parashat Ki Tisa Zoom service
19th of Adar	8 20th of Adar	9 21st of Adar	10 22nd of Adar	11 23rd of Adar	12 24th of Adar	13 25th of Adar Shabbat HaChodesh Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Zoom service
26th of Adar	15 27th of Adar	16 28th of Adar	17 29th of Adar	18 1st of Nisan, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Nisan	19 2nd of Nisan	20 3rd of Nisan Parashat Vayikra Zoom service
4th of Nisan	22 5th of Nisan	23 6th of Nisan Deadline to submit info for April <i>Shofar</i>	24 7th of Nisan	25 8th of Nisan	26 9th of Nisan	27 10th of Nisan Shabbat HaGadol Yom HaAliyah Parashat Tsav In-person service at BJCC (also live streamed) and potluck lunch
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