
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

September 2026 / Elul 5786-Tishrei 5787



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



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Sept. 5–Nitzavim-Vayeilech–B. Klein (Zoom)

Sept. 12, 9:30 AM–Rosh Hashanah service

Sept. 19–Ha'azinu–R&S Scheckler (Zoom)

Sept. 26–1st day of Sukkot–S&M Kranowski (Zoom)

SHABBAT SERVICES

Our Shabbat services are all via Zoom in September, except for Sept. 12, when we'll be in the building for Rosh Hashanah, starting at 9:30 AM. See the HHD services schedule on the next page.

MAH JONGG AT BJCC

Did you know the BJCC has a Mah Jongg group? We've been teaching and playing all summer, and we'd love you to join us! We have women and men of a variety of ages, all lovely folks. We're happy to teach you; no previous experience required.

We're planning to play two Sunday afternoons per month, 1:30–3:30ish PM, downstairs at the BJCC, starting in September with events on Sept. 6 and 27. If you'd like to be on the Mah Jongg email list, contact Suzan Antin at [suzan_antin\[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:suzan_antin@yahoo.com) (with an underscore between the first and last names) or text her at 540-415-8672.

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for these donations to the BJCC:

To the general fund:

- Steve Jacobs
- Ruben Alexander & Diaz Rodriguez
- Linda Deemer

To the NAACP:

- Stephen and Rebecca Scheckler
- Irene Jacobs
- Steve Jacobs
- Ruth Grene

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we approach the end of summer, we know the rhythm of the fall season is about to begin. Students return to college campuses, our children are back in school (and in sports), and we start to look for (or at) our fall-appropriate garments.

As Jews, we know the High Holidays will soon be upon us. Just as we experience the rhythm of the seasons, we know the flow of the High Holidays. We will observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the 10-day period between them consists of the Days of Atonement, during which we reflect on the past year, pray, and seek forgiveness.

The period does not align with the current practices or demands of our modern lifestyle. Observing the High Holidays does not seem congruent with the practices of our society, in which we are to spend 10 days reflecting, praying, and seeking forgiveness.

However, in my readings, I found that Rabbi Sacks taught that “the Jewish calendar (a lunar calendar) is fundamental to the continued vitality of the Jewish people. Every festival (*chag*) is imbued with deep meaning and offers crucial insights into the Jewish soul, identity, and heritage.”

The High Holidays also allow us to adopt a mindset of forgiveness and of being forgiven.

I hope to see you at the BJCC services.

This newsletter contains information about the services at the BJCC.

Best wishes, Prez Gary

SHOFAR DEADLINE, SEPT. 23

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Sept. 23. Send information to Richard at [richard\[at\]vt.edu](mailto:richard[at]vt.edu).

2026 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

All services will be held in person at the BJCC and will also be live-streamed. Irv Gertner will be returning as our Hazzan.

Rosh Hashanah

- Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30 PM–Erev RH, followed by a dessert reception.
- 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)

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our HHD services are free to all, but donations to help defray the costs of these services are greatly appreciated. (A “Donate” button is at the bottom of the page at <https://www.bjccblacksburg.org/religious-services>.)

In-person: The front door is kept locked. BJCC members can open it with a keycode or, up to 15 minutes after the service begins, knock on the door. All others require prior approval; please see our website at <https://www.bjccblacksburg.org/religious-services> for details.

Online: If you are not a member and not on the friends listserv, email ehallerm [at] vt.edu by Sept. 8 for Rosh Hashanah or by Sept. 17 for Yom Kippur to request the Zoom link.

FOOD DRIVE (ALSO SEE NEXT PAGE)

High Holidays Food Drive 2026 in support of the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP)

Contributions needed by the Blacksburg IFP include: canned goods such as fruits, vegetables (e.g., green beans, corn, carrots, beets), beans, pasta (e.g., SpaghettiOs, ravioli), spaghetti sauce, soup, and tuna. Packaged items, such as dry beans (e.g., pinto, lima), rice, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, boxed sugar, powdered milk, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal, are also welcome. Cash donations are appreciated. Please make checks payable to Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry or visit <https://www.bjccblacksburg.org/religious-services> and click the "Donate" button to link to PayPal. Please email Marta Brinberg with your donation details. Leave food or check donations in the BJCC social room by Yom Kippur. Questions? Contact Marta Brinberg at [martabrinberg \[at\] hotmail.com](mailto:martabrinberg@hotmail.com).

Shana Tova
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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 Keese	mekeese [at] gmail.com
Education Chair	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
Co-chair	Linda Deemer	lrdeemer [at] comcast.net
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	
Religious School Director	Sean Sidky	ssidky [at] vt.edu
Education Director	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

Dear BJCC members,

As you prepare for the High Holidays, please consider donating food or cash to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. The pantry supplies food to hundreds of needy families in our community. See below for details.

Sincerely, Marta Brinberg

High Holidays Food Drive 2026

in support of the

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

Contributions sought by the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry include:

Canned goods: fruits, vegetables (e.g., green beans, corn, carrots, beets), beans, pasta (e.g., SpaghettiOs, ravioli), spaghetti sauce, soup, tuna

Packaged goods: dry beans (e.g., pinto, lima), rice, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, boxed sugar, powdered milk, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cereal

Cash donations are also appreciated:

Write a check to **Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**

or

Go to <http://www.bjccblacksburg.org> and use the “Donate” button to link to PayPal. Please email Marta Brinberg with donation information.

Please leave your food or check donations in the BJCC social room by Yom Kippur.

Questions? Contact Marta Brinberg at martabrinberg [at] hotmail.com.

September 2026

Elul 5786 – Tishrei 5787

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 19th of Elul	2 20th of Elul	3 21st of Elul	4 22nd of Elul	5 23rd of Elul Leil Selichot Parashat Nitzavim-Vayelech Zoom service
6 24th of Elul Mah Jongg 1:30-3:30 PM at BJCC (downstairs)	7 25th of Elul	8 26th of Elul	9 27th of Elul	10 28th of Elul	11 29th of Elul Erev Rosh Hashanah RH service 7:30 PM	12 1st of Tishrei, 5787 Rosh Hashanah 5787 RH service, 9:30 AM
13 2nd of Tishrei Rosh Hashanah II	14 3rd of Tishrei	15 4th of Tishrei	16 5th of Tishrei	17 6th of Tishrei	18 7th of Tishrei	19 8th of Tishrei Shabbat Shuva Parashat Ha'azinu Zoom service
20 9th of Tishrei Erev Yom Kippur YK service, 7:00 PM	21 10th of Tishrei Yom Kippur YK daytime service, 9:30 AM YK Neilah service, 7:00 PM	22 11th of Tishrei	23 12th of Tishrei Deadline for submissions to next issue of the Shofar	24 13th of Tishrei	25 14th of Tishrei Erev Sukkot	26 15th of Tishrei Sukkot I Zoom service
27 16th of Tishrei Sukkot II Mah Jongg 1:30-3:30 PM at BJCC (downstairs)	28 17th of Tishrei Sukkot III (CH"M)	29 18th of Tishrei Sukkot IV (CH"M)	30 19th of Tishrei Sukkot V (CH"M)			

Diaspora holidays schedule

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