

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

February 2026 / Sh'vat-Adar 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]

Feb. 7—Yitro—E. Hallerman (Zoom)
Feb. 14—Mishpatim—M. Brinberg (Zoom)
Feb. 21—Terumah—E. Hallerman (Zoom)
Feb. 28—Tetzaveh—R&S Scheckler (BJCC and live-streamed) **followed by a potluck lunch

SERVICES MOSTLY ONLINE IN FEB.

We'll hold online Shabbat services for the first three Saturdays in February. The final Saturday will be in-person at the BJCC, followed by a potluck lunch.

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER, FEB. 1

Please join our Hillel/BJCC Tu B'Shevat Seder. Hillel will lead this year since Wendy Silverman (our regular planner of this event) will be out of town. Sign up and join the fun! It's a wonderful family event where people of all ages are welcome to taste a variety of fruits from trees.

The event will occur on Sun., Feb. 1, at the Virginia Tech Hillel building (710 Toms Creek Rd., Blacksburg), starting at 5:30 PM.

A few volunteers are needed for setup from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. If you can help, please contact Amanda Herring at aherring@hillelvt.org. For more information and to RSVP, go to <https://engage.hillel.org/events/07a4ffa4-36aa-43c4-b42c-28f81f718d7f/details>.



Tu B'Shevat is a time to celebrate the trees.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

About 20 years ago, I first brought my older son, Zach, to the BJCC. He was a young Cub Scout, and one of his badge requirements was to learn about a religion. So I brought him over at the end of the service and tried to start a conversation with Nat Kranowski with an open-ended question. Something like "Can you explain to my son what Judaism is about?" (Okay, in hindsight, that was a pretty naïve question.) But his answer surprised me: "Why don't you come join us and find out?" The point is that often we want instant gratification—an answer we can put in a box. Maybe, instead, what we need isn't the answer, but encouragement from our friends, mentors, and teachers to figure it out ourselves.

Stay warm out there, and I hope you'll join us for Tu B'Shevat seder at Hillel on Sun., Feb. 1.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

POTLUCK LUNCH ON FEB. 28

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Feb. 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:

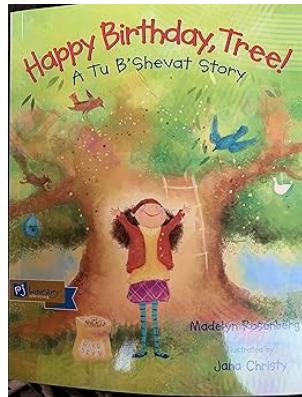
- Judith and Jonathan Minnen, in honor of the birth of Ester and Eric Hallerman's first grandchild, Leora Zoe
- Anonymous, in honor of the service leaders of the BJCC.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION LETTER.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a letter acknowledging a charitable contribution of more than \$250 to claim it as an itemized deduction on your income tax return. Due to recent tax law changes, choosing the standard deduction often results in a larger reduction in taxable income for most individuals. As a result, letters confirming contributions are not automatically sent. However, please contact BJCC treasurer Marta Brinberg if you would like a letter acknowledging your charitable contributions to the BJCC for 2025.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, FEB. 22

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Feb. 22. Send information to Richard at richard [at] vt.edu.



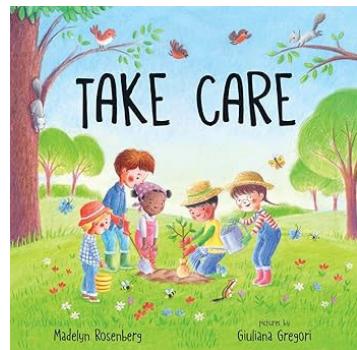
PJ BOOK NOOK INFO, FROM SUZAN ANTIN

We begin February with Tu B'Shevat, and our book nooks offer many resources for this holiday, celebrating the beauty and bounty of trees.

PJ Library's Family Guide for the winter holidays, including Hanukkah, Sigd, Tu B'Shevat, and Purim, *A Time to Hope*, is available in the downstairs book nook,

but you can also download it from the landing page of the PJL website: www.pjlibrary.org.

The white bins in both book nooks contain multiple recipe and activity books that will delight the whole family. In addition, the blue bins marked Tu B'Shevat/Purim contain a variety of books about both holidays, including two by our own Madelyn Rosenberg: *Take Care* and *Happy Birthday, Tree!*



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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	Simona Fried	sfried90 [at] gmail.com
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<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

February 2026

Sh'vat – Adar 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 14th of Sh'vat	2 15th of Sh'vat Tu B'Shevat Tu B'Shevat seder at Hillel	3 16th of Sh'vat	4 17th of Sh'vat	5 18th of Sh'vat	6 19th of Sh'vat	7
8 21st of Sh'vat	9 22nd of Sh'vat	10 23rd of Sh'vat	11 24th of Sh'vat	12 25th of Sh'vat	13 26th of Sh'vat	14 27th of Sh'vat Shabbat Shekalim Parashat Mishpatim Zoom service
15 28th of Sh'vat	16 29th of Sh'vat	17 30th of Sh'vat Rosh Chodesh Adar	18 1st of Adar, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Adar	19 2nd of Adar	20 3rd of Adar	21 4th of Adar Parashat Terumah Zoom service
22 5th of Adar Deadline for March issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	23 6th of Adar	24 7th of Adar	25 8th of Adar	26 9th of Adar	27 10th of Adar	8 11th of Adar Parashat Tetzaveh Service at BjCC (live-streamed) and potluck lunch

Diaspora holiday schedule

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