
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

July 2026 / Tamuz-Av 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]

July 4–Pinchas–R&S Scheckler (Zoom)

July 11–Matot-Masei–E. Hallerman (BJCC & livestreamed)

July 18–Devarim–B. Klein (Zoom)

July 25–Vaetchanan–M. Brinberg (Nellies Cave Park) **followed by potluck lunch

A VARIETY OF SERVICES IN JULY

In July, we'll have two Zoom services; we'll be at the BJCC once for a live and live-streamed service, and we'll end the month with our second outdoor service of this summer, at Nellies Cave Park Shelter, with a potluck lunch to follow.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON JULY 25 AT NELLIES CAVE PARK

Our potluck lunch this month will be held on July 25 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, JULY 23

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

THANKS FOR THE DONATION

We're grateful for the donation to the BJCC.

- Stephen Scheckler, to the general fund.

PJ BOOK NOOK INFO

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

A couple of days ago, I received an email message from a high school student asking, "What do I need to do to be successful in college?" While I suspect this was a homework assignment, I love this question because there are so many correct answers.

I'd like to share a couple of thoughts.

First, a great NPR article a couple of years ago argued that great individuals demonstrate their greatness in high school. That is, the "famous" college they attend does not make them successful; rather, their personal drive and innate abilities—demonstrated even before they leave high school—elevate that college's reputation. Put simply, student success is not defined by the school they attend. Second, I've been reading Jonathan Haidt's 2024 book, *The Anxious Generation*, which describes how we are doing children a disservice by both being overly protective and allowing them too much freedom to use electronic devices and social media. Haidt argues that normal brain development requires unstructured play, in which children can explore, develop social interaction skills, and learn right from wrong through trial and error.

Why do I bring up these observations? Because I think that they apply to us adults as well.

And if you'd like to get out of your comfort zone, please join us for our next potluck service at Nellies Cave Park, on Sat., July 25.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

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.)

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July 2026

Tamuz – Av 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 16th of Tamuz	2 17th of Tamuz	3 18th of Tamuz	4 19th of Tamuz Parashat Pinchas Zoom service
5 20th of Tamuz	6 21st of Tamuz	7 22nd of Tamuz	8 23rd of Tamuz	9 24th of Tamuz	10 25th of Tamuz	11 26th of Tamuz Parashat Matot-Masei Service at BJCC and live-streamed
12 27th of Tamuz	13 28th of Tamuz	14 29th of Tamuz	15 1st of Av, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Av	16 2nd of Av	17 3rd of Av	18 4th of Av Parashat Devarim Zoom service
19 5th of Av	20 6th of Av	21 7th of Av	22 8th of Av Erev Tish'a B'Av	23 9th of Av Tish'a B'Av Deadline for Aug. issue of the Shofar	24 10th of Av	25 11th of Av Parashat Vaetchanan Service at Nellies Cave Park (no live-streaming) and potluck lunch
26 12th of Av	27 13th of Av	28 14th of Av	29 15th of Av Tu B'Av	30 16th of Av	31 17th of Av	