
THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

October 2026 / Tishrei-Cheshvan 5787



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782
Blacksburg, VA 24063

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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Oct. 3–Shmini Atzeret–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

Oct. 10–Breishit–R&S Scheckler (BJCC and live-streamed)

Oct. 17–Noach–E. Hallerman (Zoom)

Oct. 24–Lech-Lecha–M. Brinberg (BJCC and live-streamed) **followed by a potluck lunch

Oct. 31–Vayera–M&S Kranowski (Zoom)

A 5-SHABBAT MONTH OF SERVICES

It's that wonderful time of year when we go back to the beginning, and I mean IN THE BEGINNING, in Genesis. We'll have three Zoom services interspersed with two in-person (and live-streamed) services, and a potluck lunch after services on Oct. 24.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON OCT. 24

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Oct. 24. You can bring a dish (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 the proper serving temperature.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, OCT. 25

The deadline to submit news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Oct. 25. Send information to Richard at richard [at] vt.edu.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

During the High Holy Days of 5787, we gathered at the BJCC for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During these days, we have time to reflect on the past year, repent, and prepare for the new year. We are now in the midst of Sukkot, a time for families and friends to gather, share meals, and enjoy each other's company.

This cycle repeats every year, and we will soon celebrate Simchat Torah. After we finish the cycle of reading the Torah, we roll it back to the beginning for a new year of readings.

In his writings, Rabbi Sacks describes this cycle of days as a time to reflect on the past year and to better prepare for the new year. His website, rabbisacks.org, speaks well of the High Holy Days and their celebration.

On a different issue, you may be aware that the front stairs of the BJCC were recently damaged in a 3-car accident. Our exterior security cameras recorded the incident, and the Blacksburg Police responded. We had a similar mishap several years ago. Thanks to the individuals who came to gather the bricks and store them for future repairs. Also, thanks to Al K. for reviewing and sharing the videos so the repairs can proceed.

Shalom, Prez Gary

MAH JONGG AT BJCC, OCT. 4 & 18

If you'd like to join the Mah Jongg email list, contact Suzan Antin at suzan_antin [at] yahoo.com (with an underscore between the first and last names) or text her at 540-415-8672. We'll be playing at the BJCC on the following dates in October:

Sun., Oct. 4, 1:30-3:30 PM

Sun., Oct. 18, 1:30-3:30 PM

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We're grateful for these donations to the BJCC:

To the general fund:

- Maddy Schreiber
- Nitza Kats
- Charles (Chuck) and Anita Silverman
- Bob Hicok and Eve Trager

To the Interfaith Food Pantry (a total of \$3,590 and seven bags of food):

- Anonymous
- Anna Zeide
- Linda Deemer
- Matthew Lawhead and Sharone Tomer
- Bill Floyd and Leslie Kay
- Marta and David Brinberg
- Muriel Kranowski
- Brad and Rita Klein
- Ed Tuchler
- Michael Leib
- Cynthia Rosenbaum and Matthew Wisnioski
- Stephen and Rebecca Scheckler
- Eric and Ester Hallerman
- Jonathan and Judith Minnen

To the NAACP:

- Muriel Kranowski

ADDITIONAL THANKS

We're grateful to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, which generously allowed our members to use its parking lot during Rosh Hashanah services.

BOOK NOOK

New this month for adults: *The Lost Girl of Craven County*, by Emily Matchar, tells the story of Millie, a 25-year-old "old maid" whose Jewish family owns a pickle factory in New Bern, NC. Set in 1939, the novel captures a culture that has vanished in the rural South: the once-flourishing Jewish communities that no longer exist. It's a mystery, and some of its themes include how we experience love, loss, and friendship. This story resonated with me because I am from North Carolina and was fascinated by the descriptions of places whose modern iterations I know, such as New Bern and Kinston, where I never imagined Jewish communities.

Many thanks to Seth Hines, who has donated three copies of *Tastes of Jewish Tradition*. This book is a terrific resource for anyone with children in their lives, offering a wide variety of crafts and recipes, as well as clear explanations of every holiday and a read-along story. Copies of *Tastes of Jewish Tradition* are in the white bins, both upstairs and downstairs. *The Lost Girl of Craven County* is in the white bin downstairs.

BJCC EMAIL ADDRESS

Please check your email address books. Our proper email address is [info.blacksburgbjcc \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:info.blacksburgbjcc[at]gmail.com). Please use this address going forward.

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
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Building Chair	Al Kornhauser	alkorn [at] vt.edu
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	Molly Larson	
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Education Director	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
<i>Shofar</i> Editor	Richard Hirsh	richard [at] vt.edu

October 2026

Tishrei – Cheshvan 5787

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 20th of Tishrei Sukkot VI (CH"V)	2 21st of Tishrei Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba)	3 22nd of Tishrei Shmini Atzeret Zoom service
4 23rd of Tishrei Simchat Torah Mah Jongg at BJCC 1:30 PM	5 24th of Tishrei	6 25th of Tishrei	7 26th of Tishrei	8 27th of Tishrei	9 28th of Tishrei	10 29th of Tishrei Parashat Breishit At BJCC and live-streamed
11 30th of Tishrei Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	12 1st of Cheshvan, 5787 Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	13 2nd of Cheshvan	14 3rd of Cheshvan	15 4th of Cheshvan	16 5th of Cheshvan	17 6th of Cheshvan Parashat Noach Zoom service
18 7th of Cheshvan Mah Jongg at BJCC 1:30 PM	19 8th of Cheshvan	20 9th of Cheshvan	21 10th of Cheshvan	22 11th of Cheshvan	23 12th of Cheshvan	24 13th of Cheshvan Parashat Lech-Lecha At BJCC and live-streamed , followed by potluck lunch
25 14th of Cheshvan Deadline for submissions to next issue of the Shofar	26 15th of Cheshvan	27 16th of Cheshvan	28 17th of Cheshvan	29 18th of Cheshvan	30 19th of Cheshvan	31 20th of Cheshvan Parashat Vayera Zoom service

Diaspora holidays schedule

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