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# THE SHOFAR

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The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

May 2026 / Iyyar-Sivan 5786



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center  
Corner of Church and Roanoke Streets, PO Box 782  
Blacksburg, VA 24063  
Website: [www.bjccblacksburg.org](http://www.bjccblacksburg.org)



## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

May 2–Emor–E. Hallerman (Zoom)

May 9–Behar-Bechukotai–S&M Kranowski (Zoom)

May 16–Bamidbar–M. Brinberg (Zoom)

May 23–Shavuot M&S Kranowski (Zoom)

May 30–Naso–M. Brinberg (BJCC/live-stream)

\*\*followed by potluck lunch

## SERVICES MOSTLY ONLINE IN MAY

There are five Shabbatot in May, including the second day of Shavuot. We'll have a series of Zoom services and will end the month with an in-person (and live-streamed) service, followed by our monthly potluck lunch.

## POTLUCK LUNCH ON MAY 30

We'll enjoy a potluck lunch after services on Sat., May 30. 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 the best serving temperature.

## THANKS FOR THE DONATION

We're grateful for the donation to the BJCC.

- Richard and Doris Zallen to Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

## SHOFAR DEADLINE, MAY 25

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is May 25. Send information to Richard at [richard \[at\] vt.edu](mailto:richard[at]vt.edu).



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

This time of year is my favorite for getting outside. It's not too hot, it's not too cold, and the mosquitoes and gnats aren't out yet. In fact, I brought an entire cycling kit to work a few days ago, hoping to take a short ride. But with a stack of tasks in my inbox, it wasn't until my wife called me at 7:30 PM to ask if I was coming home for dinner that I realized it was time to go home. So much for my ride.

My simple challenge to you is to do better than I did. Set aside a bit of time during the day to get outside, enjoy the fantastic weather and fresh air, and maybe even do a little exercise.

Best wishes, Prez Aaron

## YOM HASHOAH EVENT

Along with others, Ester Hallerman reads names of Holocaust victims on Yom HaShoah, Tues, April 14, at the pylons on the Virginia Tech campus, in an event organized by [Hillel@VT](mailto:Hillel@VT). So many names, so many innocent souls!



## PJ BOOK NOOK INFO, FROM SUZAN ANTIN

The community is invited to the BJCC on Sun., May 31, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM to pick up some summer reading from our book nooks. We'll have all the books in the social hall downstairs and a cool treat (popsicles or ice cream) for those who attend. A SignUp Genius link will be sent to the BJCC and BJCC Friends email lists closer to the event date. Please RSVP using the link or by emailing Suzan Antin at [suzan\\_antin@yahoo.com](mailto:suzan_antin@yahoo.com) so there will be enough treats for everyone. (There is an underscore

in the email address between Suzan’s first and last names.) The event is drop-in at your convenience.

Shavuot is coming up on May 21-23, and for younger readers, the blue bin with Passover books also contains books about Shavuot, Lag B’Omer (May 4-5), and summer camp. Israeli Independence Day and Israel’s Holocaust Memorial Day just happened; you can read stories rooted in these two events in the blue bins marked “Israel and Books in Hebrew”. Don’t forget about the Israel Trail Game, perfect for summer and outside, in both the upstairs

and downstairs book nooks. Please check out the game by putting your name on the library card and tossing it in the hot pink bin.

For older readers, the teal bins offer a wide range of options, including biographies, historical fiction, and fantasy. For baseball season, consider *Stealing Home*, located upstairs, or *The Rookie Bookie* and *Striker Boy*, both located downstairs.

Don’t forget to drop by on May 31 to grab some summer reading.

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
Treasurer	Marta Brinberg	martabrinberg [at] hotmail.com
Secretary	Maddy Keesee	mekeesee [at] gmail.com
Education Chair	Gil Hersch	gil251 [at] gmail.com
Community Service/Tzedakah	Ruth Grene	greneruth [at] gmail.com
Co-chairs	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
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	Sharone Tomer	Sharoneltomer [at] gmail.com
	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		

# May 2026

Iyyar – Sivan 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 14th of Iyyar Pesach Sheni	2 15th of Iyyar Parashat Emor Zoom service
3 16th of Iyyar	4 17th of Iyyar	5 18th of Iyyar Lag BaOmer	6 19th of Iyyar	7 20th of Iyyar	8 21st of Iyyar	9 22nd of Iyyar Parashat Behar-Bechukotai Zoom service
10 23rd of Iyyar	11 24th of Iyyar	12 25th of Iyyar	13 26th of Iyyar	14 27th of Iyyar	15 28th of Iyyar Yom Yerushalayim	16 29th of Iyyar Parashat Bamidbar Zoom service
17 1st of Sivan, 5786 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	18 2nd of Sivan	19 3rd of Sivan	20 4th of Sivan	21 5th of Sivan Erev Shavuot	22 6th of Sivan Shavuot I	23 7th of Sivan Shavuot II Zoom service
24 8th of Sivan	25 9th of Sivan Deadline for the next issue of the <i>Shofar</i>	26 10th of Sivan	27 11th of Sivan	28 12th of Sivan	29 13th of Sivan	30 14th of Sivan Parashat Naso Service at BJCC (and live-streamed) and potluck lunch
31 15th of Sivan						