

THE SHOFAR

The Monthly Bulletin of the BJCC

February 2025 / Sh'vat 5785



Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

[Saturday Shabbat services begin at 10:00 AM]

Feb. 1-Bo- R&S Scheckler (Zoom)

Feb. 8-B'shallach- Marta (BJCC & live-streamed)

Feb. 15-Yitro- M&S Kranowski (Zoom)

Feb. 22-Mishpatim- Eric (BJCC & live-streamed)

**followed by a potluck lunch

IN-PERSON AND ZOOM SERVICES

We'll be alternating Zoom services and in-person services in February, and we'll have a Torah reading as part of our service on Feb. 22.

POTLUCK LUNCH ON FEB. 22

We'll have a potluck lunch after services on Sat., Feb. 22. You can bring your dish with you (plan to arrive downstairs with it a few minutes before 10:00 AM) and attend the service, or simply join us at 11:30. Please bring a vegetarian or kosher-fish dish to share. If you come for the service, your dish can be refrigerated and/or can be heated in the oven so it's at the best temperature for serving.

TU BISHVAT SEDER, SUN. FEB. 9

The BJCC and Virginia Tech Hillel will be hosting a joint Tu BiShvat Seder on Sun., Feb. 9, 5:00-6:30 PM at Hillel. We will taste lots of different fruits, and Greg Herring will serve his famous Tu BiShvat soup. We guarantee that you will not go home hungry.

This event, for members and guests of all ages, is a perfect way for Jewish community members to come and nosh together. Please RSVP by emailing

Wendy Silverman at wssilverman@gmail.com by noon on Fri., Feb. 7. Please tell her how many people plan to attend.



PJ LIBRARY NEWS

From Suzan Antin

This month, I want to feature the works of an author with long-standing ties to our congregation. Madelyn Rosenberg grew up in Blacksburg. She is the daughter of Linda Deemer and was the very first b'nai mitzvah student to have her service in our building! Madelyn kicked off the inauguration of our book nooks with a wonderful author talk in April and recalled the excitement of the BJCC congregants when the building was purchased. She also discussed the many ways that the children participated in the preparation of the building for Jewish worship.

Madelyn earned a bachelor's degree from NC State University and holds a master's from Boston University. She is a popular, award-winning author of many children's books for all ages, including three PJ Library selections and two PJ Our Way selections. We have multiple copies of all her books in our book nooks.



Since we are looking forward to Tu BiShvat on Feb. 12 and 13, I want to feature Madelyn and her works. In the royal blue bins labeled "Tu BiShvat and Purim," you can find copies of *Take Care* (age 1) and *Happy Birthday, Tree!* (age 3), which both feature themes of caring for the environment. (I noticed that Annie Kay's has a copy of *Happy Birthday, Tree!* for sale if you'd like to have one for your own library.)

One of Madelyn's best-known books, and the one she read when she visited in April, is *The Schmutzy Family*. This is a fun, humorous story for ages 4-8 about a farm family and how its members prepare for

Shabbat. The book was a finalist for the Sydney Taylor Award in 2013, which is given by the Association of Jewish Libraries to books for young people that authentically portray the Jewish experience in the United States. Our Sunday School children LOVE this book! It can be found in the royal blue book bins labeled “Shabbat and Jewish values.”

Madelyn has written two PJ books for readers ages 9+, which can be found in the teal bins. *This Is Just a Test*, a story about David Da-Wei Horowitz, a Jewish-Chinese boy who is preparing for his bar mitzvah, and *Not Your All-American Girl*, whose heroine Lauren explores what it means to be an American girl.

Madelyn’s books are available in both the upstairs and downstairs book nooks.

As a reminder, the books with a book card in the front are ones that we ask you to check out and return. Write your name on the book card and put it in the pink bin. You may keep the book as long as you wish, but **please** do return it. We especially ask that you return Madelyn’s books so that they will be available for all our congregants.

It’s a big deal for an author to have one book distributed by PJ Library or PJ Our Way, but to have five books selected is amazing; we’re so proud of Madelyn!

Happy reading! (See below for a summary of the color coding of the book nooks.)

THANKS FOR THE DONATION

We are grateful for a donation to the BJCC from

- Irvin Gertner and Carol Fisher to the general fund for Fannie Gertner Yahrzeit.

SHOFAR DEADLINE, FEB. 21

The deadline for submitting news for the next issue of the *Shofar* is Feb. 21. Send information to Richard at richard [at] vt.edu.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION LETTER.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a letter acknowledging a charitable contribution of more than \$250 to claim the contribution as an itemized deduction on your income tax return. Because of recent changes to the tax laws, claiming the standard deduction rather than an itemized deduction provides a greater reduction in taxable income for most people. Consequently, letters acknowledging contributions are not automatically sent. However, please contact the BJCC treasurer, Marta Brinberg, if you would like a letter acknowledging your charitable contributions to the BJCC for 2024.

How to Use our Book Nooks

- Color Coding
 - Teal bins - ages 9+
 - Royal blue ages 6 months – 8 years - books for younger children in the front.
 - White bins for adults
 - Hot pink bin for book cards and returns
- Each bin has a QR code on the left side - scan to see a list of books in that bin, with photos of the covers, as well as the title and suggested age.
 - Tap on a book to get more info.



Source of image and video link: <https://www.alephbeta.org/playlist/tu-bshvat-what-is-a-birthday-for-trees>

BJCC Officers and Board Members 2024–25

President	Gary Long	glong [at] vt.edu
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February 2025

Shvat 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						3rd of Shvat Parashat Bo Zoom service
4th of Shvat	5th of Shvat	6th of Shvat	7th of Shvat	8th of Shvat	9th of Shvat	10th of Shvat Shabbat Shirah Parashat B'shallach In-person at BJCC and live-streamed
11th of Shvat Tu B'Shvat seder, 5:00-6:30 PM at Hillel	12th of Shvat	13th of Shvat	14th of Shvat	15th of Shvat Tu B'Shvat	16th of Shvat	17th of Shvat Parashat Yitro Zoom service
18th of Shvat	19th of Shvat	20th of Shvat	21st of Shvat	22nd of Shvat	23rd of Shvat Deadline for information for the March issue of the Shofar	24th of Shvat Parashat Mishpatim In-person at BJCC and live-streamed AND potluck lunch following service
25th of Shvat	26th of Shvat	27th of Shvat	28th of Shvat	29th of Shvat	30th of Shvat Rosh Chodesh Adar	

Diaspora holidays schedule

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