

J



Jewish Peninsula

WINTER 2025-26

PROGRAM GUIDE





You Belong Here!

Every story matters. Every voice counts. Every person has a place.

Our community is stronger because of its diversity - different backgrounds, experiences, ages, abilities and dreams all coming together under one roof. Whether you're looking to try something new, reconnect from times past, or simply find your people, the J is here for you.

Come as you are, bring your family, invite your neighbors.

JOIN OUR PROGRAM PASSPORT MEMBERSHIP

This annual membership gives you access to all of our amenities and participation in our many programs and classes at deeply discounted rates.



Programs include:

- Cooking classes
- Craft nights
- Dinner & Discuss events
- Family programs
- Fitness classes
- Grand Club and senior meals
- Jewish holiday celebrations
- Jewish life and learning classes
- Young adult events
- Youth programming and MORE!

Now offering a monthly auto-payment plan!

Visit jewishpeninsula.org for pricing & more info.



S T N E T N O C

Jewish Life and Learning

Opportunities for the entire Jewish community to come together for quality programming on Jewish holidays, Jewish values, Israel and Jewish education for all ages.

8-9

Arts & Ideas

Thought-provoking, relevant and exciting conversations, performances, films, classes and more to experience the world through a variety of mediums.

9

Children and Families

Diverse programs and fun-filled events and classes for children and families that provide opportunities to experience something new, make new friends and have fun.

12-13

Active Aging

Engaging programs and activities designed specifically for our senior community members to stay connected and active through social, educational and recreational opportunities.

14-15

Health & Wellness

Explore fitness programs designed to support physical and mental well-being.

16-17

Security

Training programs and safety assessments for Jewish organizations on the Peninsula.

17

Back to School

Important dates for all our educational programming, including the Sarfan Early Childhood Center, Community Hebrew School and Joint Sunday School.

20-21

Community Connections

Explore off-campus Jewish programming and events hosted by partner organizations, offering opportunities to connect with the broader Jewish community.

22-24



MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

Your gift makes a difference, helping us foster connections and build a vibrant community.



Finding Home After Years of Service

For the Schorr family, the Peninsula wasn't just another military stop: it was the place that finally felt like home.

After years of moving with the Air Force, Ali and Matt Schorr were excited when the chance of being stationed on the Peninsula became a reality. "We were pretty excited to come here," Ali shared. "We had almost moved here back in

2011, so we already knew the area a little bit. We even stopped by Temple Sinai and started the preliminary enrollment for our son at the Sarfan Center." Though that move was postponed, their early connection to the Jewish community planted the seeds that would later make their decision to retire here an easy one.

As a Jewish military family, the Schorrs faced unique challenges, especially finding a strong Jewish community at every new base. Overseas, they celebrated holidays alone. Even in the U.S., communities were sometimes small or scattered. "This one definitely has more going on," Matt said, reflecting on the Jewish Peninsula. "The J has done a great job of being a hub for everyone—whether you're culturally Jewish, religiously observant, or just want to learn."

For the Schorr kids, the Peninsula's Jewish life has also been meaningful. "It's small, but it feels like someone always has my back," Evan said. Sam added, "You have to be proud of your identity, even with everything going on in the world. This community helps us feel that pride."

The family agrees that retiring on the Peninsula just made sense. "It aligned with our family goals," Matt explained. "It's a veteran-friendly area with great schools and job opportunities. And the trees and climate? So much better than Oklahoma."

Ali and Matt joked that all roads had led to the J, from their single lives and throughout their entire military journey. "The rabbi who married us in Oklahoma City was previously the rabbi at Temple Sinai." Other connections include attending high school with Rabbi Litt, a deep friendship with one of Eric Maurer's mentors, and connections to the Rubenstein family at multiple bases across different countries. We are thrilled the Schorr Family is here to stay; it's bashert*!

*Yiddish word meaning "fortuitous" or "meant to be."

YES!

I would like to support the J.



Donate online at jewishpeninsula.org/donate-online

OR

Make a gift over the phone by calling
757-930-1422

Dear Community,

As the days grow shorter and the air turns brisk, we turn our eyes toward one of the most joyful and light-filled moments in the Jewish calendar: Hanukkah. Each year, when we gather to kindle the menorah, we are reminded that even the smallest flame has the power to push back the darkness. That image feels especially resonant today, as we continue to seek out ways to create warmth, connection and meaning in our lives and in our community.

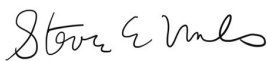
Here at Jewish Peninsula, we are proud to provide programs and services that illuminate the diverse interests and needs of our community. Over the coming months, our calendar is brimming with opportunities to learn, celebrate, play and grow together. From spirited holiday gatherings to opportunities to advocate for meaningful change, from engaging youth activities to new athletic classes in our newly renovated gym, there truly is something for everyone. Whether you join us for a lecture, a workout, or a Hanukkah celebration, each program is designed with the same goal in mind: helping you feel a sense of belonging and joy.

And we **invite you to join us** for laughter that lights the way as we launch our Annual Campaign with a special evening featuring *Comedy for Peace* on November 9. Come together to support the vital work that keeps our community thriving while enjoying an unforgettable night of comedy that bridges divides and brings our community closer. We hope to see you.

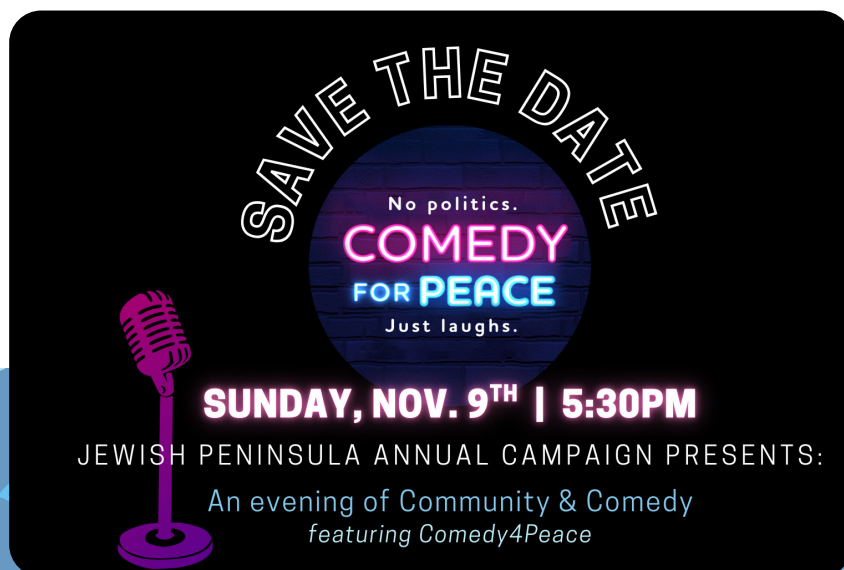
At the J, we are committed to ensuring our spaces are always safe, welcoming and inclusive for everyone. We treasure the opportunity to bring people of all generations and backgrounds together, strengthening the ties that connect us. Each time you walk through our doors—whether to advocate for change, share in laughter, light a candle, take a class, or simply catch up with friends—you help keep the spirit of our community shining bright.

As we journey through this season of light, may we each find simple, meaningful ways to share that light with one another.

Steven Marks
President



Eric Maurer
Chief Executive Officer



SAVE THE DATE

No politics.
**COMEDY
FOR PEACE**
Just laughs.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9TH | 5:30PM

JEWISH PENINSULA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN PRESENTS:
An evening of Community & Comedy
featuring Comedy4Peace

Jewish Holidays

Our holiday programs and special events are always open to all.

We welcome our diverse community to come together to share experiences by joining us for our Jewish programming.



Shabbat

Begins sundown on Friday and ends sundown on Saturday every week.

Shabbat (the Sabbath or Day of Rest) is observed each week from sundown Friday until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday night (Havdalah). To sanctify the Sabbath, blessings over candles, wine and *challah* (a special braided egg bread) are shared on Friday evening.

Shabbat is a day of rest and spiritual enrichment in synagogue or at home and is eagerly awaited throughout the week. By "unplugging" from work and concerns, time is devoted to relaxation and how to live a good life. Shabbat provides renewal through meditation, special meals and walks. It is a joyful evening and day spent with family and friends before the demands of the next week begin.

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times (for Newport News)

Nov. 7 - 4:44 p.m.; Nov. 14 - 4:39 p.m.; Nov. 21 - 4:34 p.m.; Nov. 28 - 4:32 p.m.

Dec. 5 - 4:31 p.m.; Dec. 12 - 4:31 p.m.; Dec. 19 - 4:34 p.m.; Dec. 26 - 4:38 p.m.

Jan. 2 - 4:43 p.m.; Jan. 9 - 4:49 p.m.; Jan. 16 - 4:56 p.m.; Jan. 23 - 5:03 p.m.; Jan. 30 - 5:11 p.m.

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

Shabbat Shalom or Good Shabbos
(Wishing you a good and peaceful Sabbath)



Hanukkah

DECEMBER 14-22

Celebrate Hanukkah with us at City Center (NN) and New Town (Wmbg)

This eight-day Festival of Lights commemorates the rededication of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. This followed the success of the Maccabees overcoming the restrictions of practicing Judaism.

Each night in homes all over the world, one more candle is added to the menorah (candelabra), celebrating the miracle of the oil in the Temple, which lasted eight days instead of one.

It is traditional to enjoy foods fried in oil, such as *latkes* (potato pancakes) and *sufganiot* (donuts) and to give gifts to children.

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

Happy Hanukkah or Chag Sameach
(Happy Holiday)



Tu B'Shevat

FEBRUARY 1-2

Families, join our special PJ Library Tu B'Shevat storytime on the 1st.

Tu B'Shevat is the day that marks the "new year" or birthday for trees. This day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit cycle.

During the holiday, we eat fruit, particularly the kinds mentioned in the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.

Today, Tu B'Shevat is also celebrated as an ecological awareness day, reminding us of the duty to care for the natural world, and trees are often planted in celebration.

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

Chag Sameach
(Happy Holiday)

The Mitzvah Menorah

**SPREAD LIGHT & JOY
THIS HANUKKAH**

Starting the Week of November 10th



Pick Up a Dreidel Tag

Visit the Mitzvah Menorah in the front lobby of the J. Choose a dreidel tag and purchase the toy or gift card listed to brighten a child's Hanukkah!



Shop Online

Can't make it to the J? No problem! Visit our Amazon Wish List to purchase items directly and have them shipped to us.



Donate Monetarily

Make a tax-deductible donation to Jewish Family Services to support Mitzvah Menorah efforts and help local Jewish families in need.



Support Beyond Gifts

Any excess funds or gift cards will continue helping local Jewish families throughout 2025-2026, making your generosity go even further!

**PLEASE DELIVER YOUR GIFT TO
THE J BY DEC. 5TH**



jewishpeninsula.org/mitzvah-menorah

Jewish Family Services

You'll never know when you'll need help, but you will know where to find it.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) was created to meet the social service needs of the community. Every person is treated with respect, confidentiality and careful attention. Each year, clients benefit from our diverse programs and services. At JFS, everyone is welcome.

JFS Services:

- Case Management
- Holiday Support
- Financial Assistance
- Senior Services
- Food Assistance

If you or someone you know is struggling or in need of assistance, please reach out to:

Libby Batten
Jewish Family Services Director
757-223-5635
lbatten@jewishpeninsula.org



Financial Assistance

At Jewish Peninsula, we believe in building an inclusive community where financial limitations are never a barrier. Financial assistance is available to ensure that all can participate fully in our programs and services.

JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING

FILM SCREENING: YANIV

Thursday, November 13th

Light refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

Film begins at 7:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5/person

After funding is cut for the school musical, a high school teacher resolves to earn it back by cheating at an underground card game run by the Hasidic Jewish community.

DESSERT & DISCUSS: THE ETHICS OF HUMAN CREATION

Wednesday, December 10th | 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Passport Members - \$5/person

Community Members - \$10/person

Against all better judgement, God created humans. Was it the right decision? Do our merits justify our sins? Does our own righteousness outweigh our sins? Join us for an evening of learning with Dr. Samuel Kessler, Lyons Chair in Judaic Studies at VCU.

Light dessert will be served.

HANUKKAH @ CITY CENTER

Sunday, December 14th | 6:00 p.m.

Market Stage, Newport News

Join us for the 19th annual menorah lighting at City Center! Let's celebrate the first night of Hanukkah as a community and gather together to light the giant menorah. Enjoy donuts, latkes and music by Bagels & Fraylox.

NEXTGEN: HANUKKAH

Tuesday, December 16th | 6:00 p.m.

City Center, Market Stage

Bring your family and friends and join our community for a magical evening as we light the giant menorah for the third night of Hanukkah. Gather together to kindle the Hanukkah lights then test your knowledge with some festive trivia. After the lighting, we'll head over to Salsa's Mexican Grill to keep the party going with great food, drinks and lively conversation.

Please note: Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drinks at the restaurant.



HANUKKAH @ NEW TOWN

Sunday, December 21st | 6:00 p.m.

Main Street Gazebo, Williamsburg

Celebrate the last night of Hanukkah as a community as we gather together to light the giant menorah for the ninth annual menorah lighting at New Town in Williamsburg. Enjoy donuts, dancing and music by Bagels & Fraylox.

ADULT HEBREW CLASS

Wednesdays: Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

\$54/person

This adult Hebrew reading class introduces students to the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills, focusing on letter recognition, vowel sounds and simple word formation. Perfect for those with little to no Hebrew background up through intermediate levels.

FILM SCREENING: ELIE WIESEL, SOUL ON FIRE

Thursday, January 29th

Light refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

Film begins at 7:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5/person

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel's life journey, from his family's deportation to his legacy as writer and human rights advocate, told through personal archives, family interviews, and his own voice.



Bring Jewish Stories Home

WHAT:

PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and traditions, and become cherished bedtime stories.

WHO:

A family must have children from 6 months to 8 years old with one Jewish parent in the household, and must currently reside on the VA Peninsula.

HOW:

Signing up is easy! Visit:

jewishpeninsula.org/pjlibrary

or email: carmela@jewishpeninsula.org



PJ Library sends FREE high-quality Jewish children's books to families each month. These stories spark conversations that inspire the whole family to explore and celebrate what they love about Jewish life.



PJOW is the next chapter of PJ Library, where kids ages 9-12 get to choose their own middle-grade book each month!

Sign up at:
jewishpeninsula.org/pjlibrary



ARTS & IDEAS

AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY & COMEDY

Sunday, November 9th | 5:30 p.m.

Admission: \$36/person

Join us for an evening of comedy featuring Comedy for Peace, a project that aims to unite Jewish and Muslim communities through humor and mutual understanding. They bring the best Jewish and Muslim stand-up comedians for an inspiring, funny and unforgettable experience.

Hors d'oeuvres, dessert and drinks. Childcare available.

BINGO NIGHT

Monday, December 8th | 7:00 p.m.

\$20/Bingo Card Pack

Looking for a fun night out? Join us for Bingo on the big screen at the J! Ten games and fantastic prizes. Zero bingo experience required. Whether you're a bingo veteran or trying it for the first time, you'll love the energy and camaraderie. Come try your luck, make some noise when you win and discover why this old-school game is making a comeback! Snacks, extra bingo packs and daubers will be available for purchase. Must be 18+ to play.

Please Note: The J is a no smoking campus.

CHAI ART SERIES

Mondays: Jan. 5, 12, 26; Feb. 2 | 5:30 p.m.-6:60 p.m.

Passport Members - \$60 (\$15/class)

Community Members - \$80 (\$20/class)

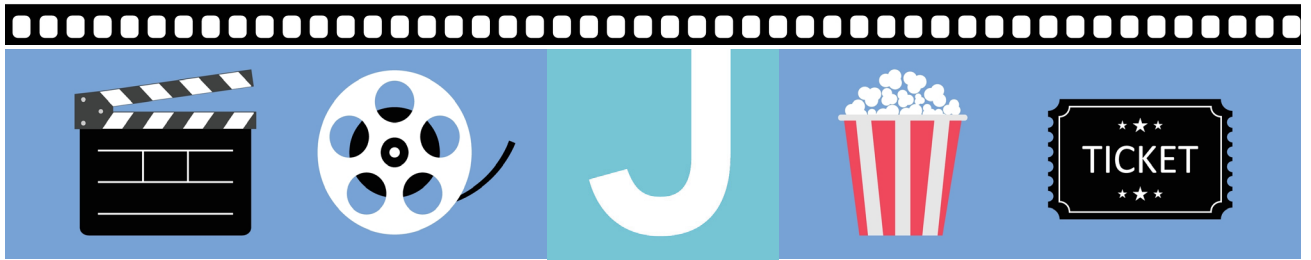
Over four classes, we'll learn about four Jewish artists and then explore techniques to create our own masterpieces, inspired by their works. We will practice assemblage, collage, drawing and painting alongside our artists this winter: Sonia Delaunay, Miriam Shapiro, Israel Tsvaygenbaum and Louise Nevelson.

WATCH & NOSH: SUPER BOWL

Sunday, February 8th | 6:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10/person

Gather with your community friends for an exciting Super Bowl evening filled with delicious game day snacks, ice-cold beer and plenty of touchdowns! Whether you're there for the football, the commercials, or the halftime show, it's the perfect excuse to cheer, eat and celebrate together on the big screen. *Price includes two beers and snacks. Additional beers available for purchase.*



Join us to celebrate the diversity and richness of Jewish culture and history through the medium of film.

Yaniv

Thursday, November 13th

6:30 p.m. Light refreshments

7:00 p.m. Film presentation

2025, 1 hr 25 min, comedy, drama

A high school teacher in the Bronx (Ben Ducoff) loses funding for the school musical and convinces his fellow statistics teacher - secretly a recovering gambling addict - to help him cheat at an underground card game run by the Jewish community. The plan goes awry with mounting consequences, but help comes at an unexpected time from the least likely people.

Admission: \$5/person

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire

Thursday, January 29th

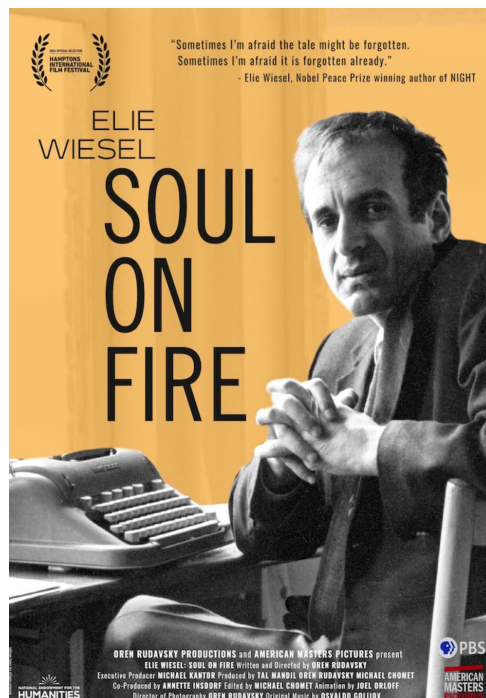
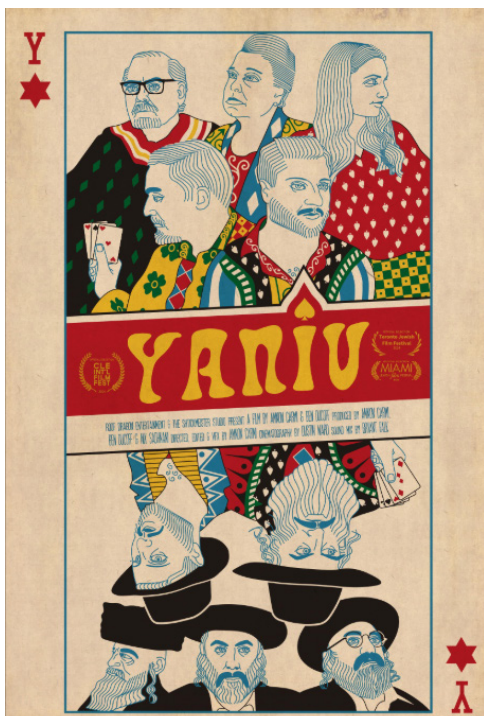
6:30 p.m. Light refreshments

7:00 p.m. Film presentation

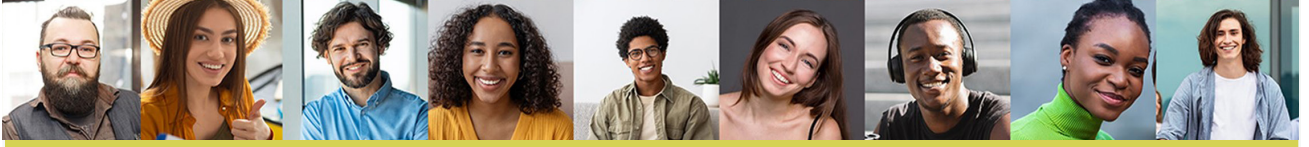
2024, 1 hr 27 min, documentary

This documentary seeks to penetrate to the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel - his passions, his conflicts and his legacy as one of the most public survivors of the trauma of the Holocaust. With unique access to personal archives, original interviews and employing hand painted animation, the film illuminates Wiesel's biography as a survivor, writer, teacher and public figure.

Admission: \$5/person



If you are Jewish, or Jewish adjacent, and in your 20s, 30s or 40s and want to socialize and make a difference, NextGen Peninsula is where you want to be!



NextGen

JEWISH PENINSULA



NextGen Peninsula provides meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service and Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults.

NGP welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families and people of all abilities, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

jewishpeninsula.org/nextgen-peninsula

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES

PREVIEW DAY AT THE J

Tuesday, November 4th | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Passport Members - \$30/child

Community Members - \$35/child

School's out for the day so come and play at the J! Join us for our first Preview Day, where kids will get a sneak peek at new activities and after school clubs coming to our campus. With everything from art and athletics, to silly science, there will be something for everyone.

Activities are designed for grades K-5. Space is limited.

WORDS & WIGGLES PLAY GROUP

Tuesdays: Nov. 4, 11, 18; Dec. 2, 9, 16

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Passport Members - \$90 (\$15/class)

Community Members - \$120 (\$20/class)

For our littlest loves, this playgroup is designed for parents and caregivers with tots under two. Parents will receive group-based instructional time with their child, covering a variety of developmental skills from gross and fine motor, to speech and literacy. Playgroup is facilitated by a certified early intervention specialist.

Please note there will be no class on Nov. 25 due to Thanksgiving Break.

JKIDS DIY GAME NIGHT

Saturday, November 8th | 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5/child

Gymnasium

Send your kids to the J for an evening of creativity and fun, where kids become the designers of their own gaming experience! This hands-on program combines crafting, customizations and classic gameplay in one entertaining package. *This is a drop-off event for children in K-8th grades.*

KIDS YOGA

Sundays: Nov. 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7

Ages 3-4 at 3:00 p.m. | Ages 5-7 at 3:30 p.m.

Passport Members - \$20/child

Community Members - \$28/child

Help your little ones find their calm and build mindfulness skills during the busy holiday season. Ms. Holly will guide children through age-appropriate yoga poses, breathing exercises and relaxation techniques in a fun, supportive environment that encourages both movement and inner peace. Each session focuses on developing flexibility,



balance and emotional regulation while introducing kids to the benefits of yoga and meditation. Perfect for helping children with excitement and stress! Bring your own mat or use one of ours.

No prior yoga experience necessary – just come ready to stretch, breathe and have fun!

CAMP CHAVERIM: MAKING S'MORE MEMORIES

Sunday, November 23rd | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5/child

Gymnasium

Come hang out for an awesome afternoon of s'mores, fun camp games and sharing your best camp stories. We're bringing the best parts of camp together for a super fun time. It's the perfect afternoon to relive those amazing camp moments and make some new ones too! *This is a drop-off event.*

JKIDS BOOM SHAKA LATKE, A HANUKKAH SHELL-EBRATION

Saturday, December 20th | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10/child

Gymnasium

Get ready for a festive evening of creativity and delicious treats! Our JKids (grades K-8) will celebrate Hanukkah by transforming shells into beautiful holiday keepsakes with various Hanukkah-themed designs. Then they'll fuel up at our special latke bar, featuring crispy, golden potato pancakes with all the traditional toppings. It's the perfect combination of hands-on fun and tasty Hanukkah traditions! *This is a drop-off event.*

LET IT SNOW: PAJAMA PARTY MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, January 17th | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10/child

Gymnasium

K-8th graders: Let's enjoy a cozy winter night in together! Come in your pajamas, ready for freshly popped popcorn, a friendly snowball fight and a winter-themed movie. *This is a drop-off event.*

PJ LIBRARY - HAPPY BIRTHDAY TREES

Sunday, February 1st | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sarfan Center Infant/Toddler Building

Join us for a special PJ Library Tu B'Shevat story time as we celebrate the birthday of the trees with engaging stories, hands-on crafts and yummy snacks! Parents and children will discover the beauty and meaning of this nature-focused holiday through interactive activities perfect for little hands and curious minds.

JKIDS LASER TAG

Saturday, February 21st | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10/child

Gymnasium

Get ready for an epic showdown as our JKids (grades K-8) transform the gym into the ultimate laser tag battleground! Come ready to play, aim and claim victory in the ultimate laser tag experience! Snacks provided. *This is a drop-off event.*



ARTS & CRAFTS

BOAT RACE

PERFORMING ARTS



SWIM LESSONS

COLOR WAR: BACKYARD OLYMPICS

ADVENTURES IN SPACE

POTTERY

GAME ON SPORTS



TEEN LEADERSHIP GROUP

NATURE DISCOVERY



SUMMER
Sneak
PEEK!

JUNE 22 -
AUGUST 14

Registration Opens
Feb. 1st!

20
26

ACTIVE AGING

GRAND CLUB LUNCH & BINGO

Thursdays: Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11, 18

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. | Lunch served at 12 p.m.

Lunch for ages 60+ - \$2.50

Lunch for under 60 - \$5.00

Bingo Cards - \$0.25 each

NEW! Bingo on the big screen! Join our senior group each Thursday for bingo, followed by lunch. All are welcome and we encourage you to bring your friends. **Become a Passport Member and get all Grand Club lunches FREE!**

Transportation is available upon request.

GRAND CLUB LUNCH MENU

November 6

Deli subs
Chips
Coleslaw

November 13

Pasta bake
Garlic bread
Salad

November 20

Roasted chicken
Stuffing with gravy
Sweet potatoes
Green beans
Rice

November 27

Closed for Thanksgiving

December 4

Tuna salad
Lettuce, tomato, pickles
Sliced bread
Chips

December 11

Baked potato bar
Salad

December 18

Salmon
Vegetable
Mac and cheese

December 25

Closed for Winter Break

January 1

Closed for Winter Break

January 8

Quiche
Salad

January 15

Chicken
Vegetable
Pasta

January 22

Tuna salad
Lettuce, tomato, pickles
Sliced bread
Chips

January 29

Meatloaf with gravy
Rice
Vegetable

**Menus subject to change*



MAH JONG

Thursdays: Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11, 18
Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Multi-Purpose Room

Join fellow enthusiasts for friendly games of Mah Jong in a welcoming, social atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, all skill levels are welcome. We provide tiles, scoring cards and plenty of laughter. Come for the strategy, stay for the community! *Mah Jong begins after Grand Club lunch.*

KIBBITZ & CREATE

Thursdays: Nov. 20; Dec. 18; Jan. 29; Feb. 26
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Library/Waters Media Resource Center

Join our fiber arts group the last Thursday of each month for a morning of snacks, crafting and chatting. Simply come with your knitting, crocheting, embroidery or any other fiber project you are working on, and enjoy the company of fellow crafters in a relaxed atmosphere. *No instruction provided.*

COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING

Thursdays: Nov. 20; Dec. 18; Jan. 29; Feb. 26
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Pop in at the J for a free health screening open to all community members. We will provide complimentary blood pressure and pulse oximetry (blood oxygen level) checks in a welcoming, no-pressure environment. *Please Note: This screening service is provided by a licensed physician but does not substitute for comprehensive medical care with your primary healthcare provider.*

MORNING PALETTE: BEGINNER WATERCOLOR CLASS

Tuesdays: Dec. 2, 9, 16
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Passport Members - \$10/person

Community Members - \$20/person

Join us as we explore the beautiful, flowing world of watercolor painting. This three-week series is designed for beginners or intermediate levels. You'll learn fundamental techniques including wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry methods, learn color mixing and blending and discover how to create beautiful washes and gradients. Each session includes step-by-step instruction with personalized guidance, and you'll take home all your completed artwork. *Space is limited.*

RESTORATIVE YOGA

Thursdays: Jan. 8, 15, 22 | 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Passport Members - Free

Community Members - \$15 for all 3 classes

Drop In Single Session - \$5

Treat yourself to a peaceful mid-morning escape with our gentle restorative yoga series, designed specifically with comfort and accessibility in mind. This wonderfully relaxing practice is perfect for active adults and retirees looking to maintain flexibility, reduce stiffness and find moments of tranquility in their week. This practice can help ease joint stiffness, improve sleep quality and provide a wonderful sense of community with like-minded peers. Whether you bring your own mat or use our provided equipment, you'll discover how good it feels to slow down and nurture yourself. *Stay for lunch! Extend your morning out by joining our Grand Club lunch immediately after class.*

LUNCH & LEARN: NOT JUST A WALK IN THE PARK, THE STORY OF MARINERS' PARK

Thursday, January 29th | 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

General Admission: \$10/person

Seniors (age 60+) - \$2.50/person

Join us for a fascinating lunch presentation with Andrea Rocchio, Park Stewardship Manager at The Mariners' Museum and Park, as she takes us on an engaging journey through one of our community's most treasured outdoor spaces. This isn't just any lunch talk – Andrea will share captivating stories about how Mariners' Park has evolved over the decades, from its origins to its current role as a premier destination for nature lovers, families and outdoor enthusiasts. You'll discover hidden features you may have walked past countless times and learn about cutting-edge environmental research happening right in our backyard.

KNITZ-VAH PROJECT

Monday, December 8th

Are you a knitter, quilter or crocheter? We'd love your help for our Knitz-vah Project! As the weather turns colder, we will be collecting handmade blankets, quilts, scarves, sweaters, hats, gloves and toys to be donated to a local homeless shelter.

Items will need to be dropped off at the J by Dec. 8th.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY

Sundays Evenings | 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Gymnasium

Bring your crew out for open play pickleball every Sunday evening this winter. Our newly renovated gym is the perfect place for casual games and to meet other players. *Equipment provided or feel free to bring your own.*

PICKLEBALL 101

Sundays: Nov. 2; Dec. 7; Jan. 4; Feb. 1 | 6:00 p.m.

Passport Members - Free

Community Members - \$5/person

Gymnasium

Are you new to pickleball or interested in learning some tips and tricks? Join us before open play, the first Sunday of each month, for a 30-minute Pickleball 101 crash course. Bring your own gear or borrow ours and learn all about how to play this fun - and social - sport.

BOOTCAMP FITNESS

Mon/Wed: Nov. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26; Dec. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17; Jan. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Passport Members - \$10/week

Community Members - \$20/week

Gymnasium

Meet up at the J for fitness class every Monday and Wednesday evening. Bootcamp Fitness provides strength, cardio, core and flexibility training (modifications are always provided). Choreography shifts between cardio intervals, fun cardio "air" boxing with hand pads, bootcamp stations, strength training with dumbbells and adventurous fitness challenges.

Participants need to bring water and a mat. All other equipment will be provided.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Monday, November 24th | 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 1st | 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23rd | 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28th | 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Friday, February 20th | 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

One pint of blood can save up to three lives! Walks-ins welcome or schedule an appointment at jewishpeninsula.org/wellness

LINE DANCE FITNESS

Sundays: Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1 | 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Passport Members - \$60 (\$15/class)

Community Members - \$80 (\$20/class)

Step into a world of upbeat music and infectious energy as you burn calories, boost coordination and get an amazing full-body workout – all while laughing and dancing alongside new friends. Our instructor will teach you easy-to-follow steps set to your favorite country, R&B and pop hits, so you'll be moving and grooving in no time. Whether you're looking to stay active, meet people, or simply shake off the day's stress, line dancing delivers it all with a smile. No partner needed – just bring your enthusiasm and comfortable shoes! *Perfect for all fitness levels and dance experience.*

JCC MACCABI GAMES 2026 INFO MEETING

Sunday, February 8th | 5:00 p.m.

Multipurpose Room

Bring your "eh" game because the Maccabi Games are headed back to Toronto for the first time in 40 years! The JCC Maccabi Games is the largest Jewish youth event in the world. From August 2-7, 2026, nearly 2,000 Jewish teens and thousands of families will gather in Toronto, Canada, to celebrate Jewish life in a historic display of pride, unity and sportsmanship. Join us at the J to learn more about Team Virginia and how you can participate in the 2026 Maccabi Games.

Teens must be 13-17 years old to participate in the following sports:

basketball, dance, golf, hockey, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball.



SECURITY

SCN GUARDIAN TRAINING

Thursday, November 6th | 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Join our regional Secure Community Network (SCN) director, Dave Brackins, for a comprehensive Guardian training program focused on community safety and security. This empowering workshop will teach participants to identify potential threats, protect their communities and respond effectively to security concerns. *Light dessert will be served.*

In the face of increasing antisemitism and emboldened acts of hate-fueled violence, we continue to invest significant resources to enhance the Jewish community's safety and security.

To report an incident, please use our online portal at jewishpeninsula.org/security

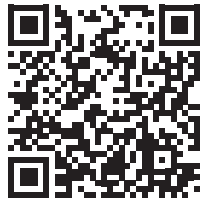
Through our regional partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN), we monitor and improve the security posture of our community, as well as offer a range of security training programs and safety assessments for Jewish organizations on the Virginia Peninsula. For more information, contact our Regional Security Advisor, Dave Brackins, at security@jewishpeninsula.org.



WE ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF

The United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula

CONNECT WITH US



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John Cruikshank, Managing Director
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AN EVENING OF Community & Comedy

PRESENTED BY JEWISH PENINSULA
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FEATURING

COMEDY
FOR PEACE

Join us for an evening of community and comedy – a night where laughter and connection creates meaningful impact.

This isn't just a fundraiser; it's a celebration of everything we build together. Your support touches every corner of Jewish life on the Peninsula: welcoming newborns with baby bags, ensuring seniors enjoy hot meals and warm companionship, strengthening youth programs and so much more.

Your support helps sustain vital programs for our local community and Jewish communities worldwide.

Guests will have an opportunity to make an Annual Campaign commitment. Minimum recommended gift of \$365.

As One, we make Jewish life thrive.

An Israeli-American comedian and the founder of Comedy for Peace, **Erik Angel** delivers comedy with heart, edge and a global perspective. Born and raised in Israel, and now based in New York, Erik has performed in over 100 cities across the U.S. and in more than a dozen countries worldwide. He's opened for headliners Maz Jobrani and Zarna Garg, appeared on NBC and has been featured in numerous comedy festivals. His stand-up - which has racked up over 3 million views on TikTok - is sharp, high-energy and deeply personal, tackling the hilarity and chaos of life as a recent immigrant, a Jewish newlywed in his forties and someone who proudly speaks English-Falafel 24/7.

A Muslim-American comedian born in North Carolina, raised in Virginia and shaped by his vibrant Pakistani household, **Gibran Saleem** has a unique voice and sharp perspective and has made history as the only comedian ever selected as a finalist for both Stand-Up NBC and the NBC Late Night Writer's Workshop. His comedy has been featured on MTV, TV Land, Popcorn Flix, PBS, CUNY TV, Voice of America, Elite Daily and Cosmopolitan. Gibran tours year-round, bringing his smart, insightful and hilarious take on identity, culture and the everyday absurd to audiences across the country.



NOV. 9, 2025
5:30 PM

ADMISSION
\$36.00



ERIK ANGEL



GIBRAN SALEEM



JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/COMEDY



BACK TO SCHOOL

SARFAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Whether you are an expecting parent, new family or new to town, discover how a journey with the Sarfan Center may be right for you!

Our wide range of programs grow alongside your children, enriching their sense of self, enabling them to cultivate lifelong friendships, and equipping them for their unique journey in life.

Register for school at sarfancenter.org



Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens in February!



Visit the website for more information and to download the registration form. **Space is limited!**



2025 Award Winner
Sarfan Early Childhood Center
Best Child Development Center

COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL AT THE J

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Register at ujcvp.org/hebrewschool

Synagogue Affiliated: \$200 per family
Unaffiliated: \$400 per family

Jewish values and traditions are vividly brought to life and made relevant at our after-school program, inspiring Jewish pride and identity in children of all levels.

Hebrew school is open to all children in 3rd-7th grade.

November Sessions

Tuesday, November 4th
Tuesday, November 11th
Tuesday, November 18th
Tuesday, November 25th

December Sessions

Tuesday, December 2nd
Tuesday, December 9th
Tuesday, December 16th
No classes December 23 & December 30

January Sessions

Tuesday, January 6th
Tuesday, January 13th
Tuesday, January 20th
Tuesday, January 27th

Sunday, February 1st | 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Great Jewish Influencers

Discover the inspiring Jewish voices who've shaped our world – from historical trailblazers to today's social media stars and tomorrow's changemakers. Students will explore how Jewish influencers have made their mark throughout history and get creative by designing their very own influencer concept. What would YOU influence the world to do?



JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL AT THE J

Sunday, November 16th | 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

An Attitude of Gratitude: Hakarat HaTov Recognizing the Good & Being Grateful

Join us for a meaningful community Sunday School experience where children of all ages will explore the beautiful Jewish concept of *Hakarat HaTov* - literally "recognizing the good" - and learn how cultivating gratitude enriches our lives and strengthens our connections. This program includes a meaningful mitzvah project opportunity for the students to express gratitude by supporting Jewish American service members through acts of kindness and giving.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Events listed below are not sponsored by Jewish Peninsula; please take note of event locations.

TROY BRESLOW CONCERT

Sunday, November 2nd | 2:00 p.m.

Free Event - Donations appreciated

Location: Temple Sinai

11620 Warwick Blvd. Newport News

Meet southeastern Virginia's only Jewish country music artist as he shares his unique blend of Yiddishkeit and Roots music, and performs songs from his debut album, *The First of My Kind*. Dessert reception.

25TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA PENINSULA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Sundays: Nov. 2, 16; Jan. 25 | 2:00 p.m.

Location: Williamsburg Regional Library Theater

515 Scotland St. Williamsburg

The film festival committee strives to use the power of film to entertain, educate and connect audiences to issues related to Jewish life in the U.S., Israel and around the world. Film selection is still being finalized. *This film festival is organized by Temple Beth El.*

THE NEEDLEMAN LECTURE: LAUGHING WITH OR AT GOD?

Tuesday, November 4th | 1:30 p.m.

Location: Christopher Newport University

1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News

Building on the Bible's presentation of God, the rabbis depict God in shockingly human terms: the divine being wears tefillin and prays, studies Torah, weeps, makes mistakes and suffers correction by humans. Were the rabbis just having fun? This lecture considers the use of humor to explore and express the "seriously" distinctive character of Israel's God. Join the lecture with Professor Christine Hayes, a renowned academic and scholar of Jewish studies, known for her work on biblical and rabbinic literature. *For more information and updated details, follow on Facebook: Jewish Studies in CNU's Philosophy and Religion Department.*

ETHICS OF OUR ANCESTORS

Tuesdays | 12:00 p.m.

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple Library

401 City Center Blvd. Newport News

Pirke Avot, The Ethics of Our Ancestors, expresses a vision of the Jewish people as an evolving religious civilization. These texts are guideposts to each generation in how to inherit the teachings of our forebears, reflect them in virtuous lives, and bequeath them to our descendants. Each week we will create our own layers of commentary, explaining and applying lessons learned from our ancient texts.

WEEKLY TORAH CLASS

Tuesdays | 7:00 p.m. (Excluding Jewish holidays)

Location: Chabad House, Williamsburg

Join us for a dynamic and meaningful exploration of the weekly Torah portion, uncovering timeless lessons and practical insights for everyday life. Whether you're new to Torah study or have been learning for years, this class offers something for everyone - discussion, inspiration and connection. No background necessary. Just come as you are and discover the relevance of Torah in today's world.

A KABBALAH OF MEANING: A SIX WEEK JOURNEY TO DISCOVER PURPOSE & FULFILLMENT

Wednesdays beginning Nov. 5 | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Location: Chabad House, Williamsburg

Course Fee: \$99 | Scholarships available

Join us for a six-week accredited course that explores everything you ever wanted to know about the meaning of life and how to find it. We will uncover profound insights and Jewish wisdom that guide us to discover purpose in every part of life. This course is accredited by the American Philosophical Association (APA) and offers practical wisdom and soulful reflection, helping you live with greater clarity, depth and joy. RSVP: ChabadWilliamsburg.org/jli

TEMPLE BETH EL TANAKH STUDY

Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Join community leaders in our Tanakh study, where we read together and learn about the parts of the Hebrew Bible not covered in Torah study. We follow the triennial cycle of Tanakh study, which can be found on HebCal. No experience in Tanakh study is required! Contact Temple Beth El for the current study schedule and Zoom info.

TORAH STUDY

Thursdays | 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Temple Beth El Social Hall
600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg

Engage in a dynamic group discussion of the Torah with Rabbi David Katz and other community members. Join us to discuss the weekly parsha, featuring a wealth of additional texts and tidbits from our religious leaders.

ADULT HEBREW CLASS

Thursdays: Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11, 18;

Jan. 15, 22; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Location: Temple Sinai

11620 Warwick Blvd. Newport News

Interested in Hebrew? Come join Rabbi Sokol in person. To participate, contact Rabbi Sokol at 757-596-8352.

TEMPLE SINAI FILM SERIES, JEWS IN HOLLYWOOD: ON THE SCREEN, BEHIND THE SCENES

Fridays: Nov. 7; Feb. 20 | 5:00 p.m.

Location: Temple Sinai

11620 Warwick Blvd. Newport News

Join us for this special program - an abridged Shabbat service followed by dinner and a film, with a brief discussion led by Fred Levy.

RSVP deadlines: Nov. 4/Feb. 17

HAVDALAH HANGOUT

Saturdays at sundown

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple Library

Looking for a quick and enriching way to conclude your week? Our Havdalah experience offers a meaningful and musical journey into the new week. Celebrate the transition from Shabbat with beautiful songs and reflections, fully accessible even without knowing Hebrew.

TEMPLE BETH EL BOOK CLUB

Second Sunday each month | 2:00 p.m.

Location: Temple Beth El Social Hall
600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg

Our monthly book club features books selected and voted on by members, focusing on books written by Jews, for Jews, or of interest to Jews, including all genres.

Nov. 9 - *The Last Nazi* by Andrew Turpin

Dec. 14 - *The House of Rothschild: Money's Prophet* by Niall Ferguson

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Saturday, November 22nd | 5:30 p.m.

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple

Dust off your act and reserve your spot for RST's Sisterhood/Men's Club open mic night.

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

Sunday, November 25th | 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple Library

Join RST's Sisterhood as they discuss *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro.

BLOCKBUSTER TORAH II

Wednesday, December 3rd | 6:30 p.m.

Location: Jewish Peninsula Multi-Purpose Room
401 City Center Blvd., Newport News

Learn about Jewish philosophy through movie franchises, discussing themes and lessons straight out of the Torah. Presented by Rabbi Gershon Litt.
December 3rd: *Jurassic World*

Continued on next page

ADULT EDUCATION, TORAH STUDY

Sundays: Dec. 7; Jan. 18; Feb. 1 | 11:00 a.m.

Location: Temple Sinai

11620 Warwick Blvd. Newport News

Come and join us at Temple Sinai for an informal Torah discussion and a delicious bagel nosh! Zoom available for those unable to attend in person; please call the temple office: 757-596-8352.

SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES

Sundays: Dec. 7; Jan. 18 | 2:00 p.m.

Location: Temple Beth El

600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg

Come learn from experts in our community about a wide range of topics.

Dec. 7 - Laura Seltzer Duny: Documentary filmmaker and founder of Seltzer Film & Video, LLC.

Jan. 18 - Carly Zeh: Getting to know your child's IEP/504. Learn from a Hampton Roads special educator your rights as a special education parent, the process of obtaining an IEP or 504 and how to advocate for your child. This session will start as a brief lecture, followed by Q&A and a chance to bring your special documents for questions or consultation.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Tuesday, January 27th | 6:00 p.m.

Location: Christopher Newport University

1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News

Join us for a screening of the movie, *The Optimists*, which tells the story of how the Jewish population of Bulgaria was saved by the brave actions of common men and women. The film will be followed by a short discussion. *For more information and updated details, follow on Facebook: Jewish Studies in CNU's Philosophy and Religion Department.*

WORLD WIDE WRAP

Sunday, February 8th | 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple

Join the RST Men's Club to learn to put on tefillin.

The Community Relations Council of Jewish Peninsula invites you to

Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day



**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 10TH
7:30AM – 2:30PM**

Come together and advocate with members of the Jewish communities across the Commonwealth.

Meet with your State Delegates and Senators and hear from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Ensure that your voice is part of the larger voice of the Jewish communities!

JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/ADVOCACY-DAY





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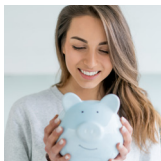
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ELEVATE YOUR EVENT WITH OUR PREMIER RENTAL SERVICES

Everyone is welcome at Jewish Peninsula. Our campus is a place where our community can come together to learn, share, relax and celebrate.

✓ Town Square

Our facilities include a large atrium, multi-purpose rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms and the Leonard & Sylvia Waters Media Center

✓ Recreation Facilities

From pick-up basketball to yoga, the J offers opportunities to exercise, embrace wellness practices and thrive. Our facilities include an indoor gymnasium, the Eric & Jack Luckman Outdoor Basketball court and outdoor playscapes.

✓ Facility Rental

We are the perfect place to hold your next meeting, event or birthday party. Our facilities offer the finest rooms, outdoor spaces and a welcoming environment for all your needs. Whether for business events, team-building or celebrations, we are here to help.



For More Information
jewishpeninsula.org/campus





Give Tomorrow a Present

We are proud to celebrate the leaders who have made legacy commitments to our community and express our profound appreciation for their generosity.

For more than 80 years, Jewish Peninsula has opened its doors building community. A legacy commitment is an opportunity to create a gift of permanence and be part of something special. The permanent endowments created by these bequests will be held in trust at the UJCVP Endowment, sustaining a vibrant Jewish Peninsula in perpetuity. Legacy giving is an after-life gift and is the ultimate expression of your Jewish values and your belief in the future of our Jewish community. A legacy gift of any size can be designed for your personal financial circumstances.

We're all in this together, for a better tomorrow. With a bequest to the Jewish community, you will guarantee the many vital and meaningful programs and services our members, friends and neighbors depend on will continue to be here for future generations.

We can't do tomorrow without you. Jewish Peninsula is part of your life. And you are a part of our future.

To discuss your legacy gift to Jewish Peninsula, please contact Eric Maurer, emaurer@jewishpeninsula.org

Betty Levin was recently recognized by Jewish Federations of North America with the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award. This prestigious award is given every two years to a community leader who exemplifies the highest standards in philanthropy and volunteerism. "Our community does not think small," Betty shared. Together with her husband Buddy z"l, she recognized the importance of permanent philanthropic dollars for our community and established the UJCVP endowment. A lifetime of dedication to our community has led to a lifetime of support.



ENDOWMENT





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Don't miss these exciting events! *(See inside for details.)*

AN EVENING OF
Community & Comedy

Featuring
Comedy
for Peace

Sunday,
Nov. 9th
5:30pm




NextGen
JEWISHPENINSULA
Hanukkah
Dec. 16th | 6:00 PM

Film Screening: Yaniv
Thursday, November 13 - 6:30 PM



BEST COMEDY FILM
**Boca International
Jewish Film Festival**
2025

YANIV

A FILM BY
AMNON CARMİ & BEN DUCCOFF

