



Jewish Peninsula

FALL 2026

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.

GET YOUR PASSPORT TODAY!

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.





Dear Community,

A great spice blend is never one note. It's cumin and cardamom, saffron and sumac: a dozen distinct flavors, none of them remarkable alone, but when brought together, something new and better emerges. This fall, we're honored to welcome Chef Yaniv Cohen, "The Spice Detective," to our community. Chef Cohen has spent his life tracing the ancient spice routes of Israel and the Middle East, and he'll take us on an immersive journey through those flavors and the healing wisdom carried inside them.

It's a fitting image for who we are. Look around our community on any given day; at the Sarfan Center, at Camp Chaverim, in our sanctuaries and around our board tables and you'll find people who arrived by entirely different paths, carrying different backgrounds, observances and stories. Alone, each of us is simply ourselves. Blended together, with care and intention, we become something greater than any of us could be on our own. That is the quiet miracle of community.

Rosh Hashanah invites us to taste something sweet and imagine what a new year can hold. As we dip our apples in honey, we invite you to think about what you bring to our community's blend: your presence, your voice, your gift.

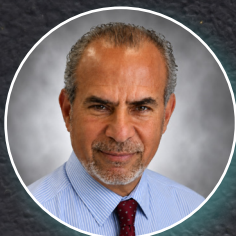
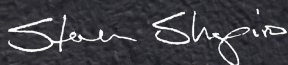
That is why we are launching our Annual Campaign this season, with Chef Cohen's visit as its centerpiece. Every person, like every spice, adds something the mix cannot do without. Together, we sustain the full richness of what Jewish Peninsula offers, from our youngest campers to our most treasured elders.

We hope you'll join us this fall in welcoming Chef Cohen at the Campaign Launch and reflecting on where your contribution becomes part of something far greater than itself.

L'shanah tovah tikatevu - may you be inscribed for a good and sweet year.

With gratitude and blessing,

Steve Shapiro
President



Eric Maurer
Chief Executive Officer





MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

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



Finding Community & Giving Back: Meet the Reilly-Rocchio Family

For Dylan Reilly and Andrea Rocchio, raising their young sons Oliver and Luca has been a season of joyful chaos, new routines and intentional choices. As they emerge from the exhaustion of early parenthood, one priority has remained constant: giving their children a strong Jewish identity and a deep sense of belonging. After relocating from Norfolk for positions at the Mariners' Museum, they enrolled Oliver at the Sarfan Early Childhood Center and quickly found more than a school. "It was just a very welcoming community," Andrea recalled. For 4-year-old Oliver, the feeling is simple and sweet: "I like coming to school and I like when Mommy and Daddy pick me up after school."

His mother shares that same sense of joy, though her reasons run a little deeper. "Having a Jewish identity for my children is really important," Andrea shared. "I wanted to make sure that if there was a spot in a Jewish school, they could get into it... and we could embrace that."

That sense of connection soon extended well beyond the classroom. Through PJ Library, family programs and holiday celebrations at the J, the Reilly-Rocchio family found themselves woven into the fabric of the community. And when it came time to welcome baby Luca into the family and the Jewish community, there was no question where that milestone would be celebrated — the J. Andrea, Dylan and the boys have also found a synagogue family at Congregation Emet V'Or, where Dylan serves on the board. With extended family living far away, the CEVO community has offered friendships, invitations to celebrate Jewish holidays and connections with other young families. "The biggest thing is to know that there are other families that would love to spend time with you and be a part of a community with you," Dylan said. "Knowing that you're not the only one going through what you're going through has made all the difference."

As they look ahead, Andrea and Dylan hope to pass along the values that have shaped their own Jewish journeys: kindness, generosity, curiosity and a lifelong commitment to learning. They want Oliver and Luca to understand that Judaism is not only about traditions, but also about caring for others and continually asking questions. "There's always more to learn," Andrea said. "Not stopping at 'I'm satisfied. I've learned all there is.'"

Those same values inspire their philanthropy. Like many young families, they hope to increase their giving as their children grow and their financial circumstances evolve, but supporting the Jewish Peninsula Annual Campaign is already an important family priority. For Andrea, the value of the Annual Campaign is clear. "The Annual Campaign underwrites everything else," she said, noting that it provides the flexibility to strengthen beloved programs while responding to new and unexpected needs.

For the Reilly-Rocchio family, giving isn't about obligation, it's about gratitude. Our community embraced them when they were new, gave their children a place to belong and walked alongside them through milestones both ordinary and sacred. Now, they want to give that same gift to others. "I don't think there's anything better that you can do with your money than to lift somebody else up, to lift an organization up that cares for people," Dylan said. For the Reilly-Rocchio family, that's not just philanthropy. That's community.

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

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

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

Jewish Family Services

Meeting our community's needs through diverse programs and services with respect, care and confidentiality.

14

Active Aging

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

16

Health & Wellness

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

18

In the Classroom

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

22

Community Connections

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

26

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.



Rosh Hashanah

SEPTEMBER 12-13

The J closes at 12 p.m. on Sept. 11.

Rosh Hashanah, which marks the beginning of the Jewish year, is both a festive and solemn holiday and a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the year to come.

While celebrating the Jewish new year, many people attend High Holiday services at a synagogue. The *shofar* (ram's horn) is sounded more than 100 times during a traditional service.

It is customary to eat apples dipped in honey, *challah* with raisins and other sweet treats in the hopes of having a sweet new year.



Yom Kippur

SEPTEMBER 21

The J will be closed Sept. 21

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Occurring 10 days after Rosh Hashanah, it is a day dedicated to fasting, reflection, prayer and repentance.

Traditionally, it is believed to be the last opportunity to seek forgiveness from those we have wronged during the past year.

Ending at sundown, it is traditional for family and friends to share a break-the-fast meal.

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times (for Newport News)

Aug. 7 - 7:49 p.m., Aug. 14 - 7:41 p.m., Aug. 21 - 7:32 p.m., Aug. 28 - 7:22 p.m.

Sept. 4 - 7:12 p.m., Sept. 11 - 7:02 p.m., Sept. 18 - 6:51 p.m., Sept. 25 - 6:40 p.m.

Oct. 2 - 6:30 p.m., Oct. 9 - 6:19 p.m., Oct. 16 - 6:10 p.m., Oct. 23 - 6:01 p.m., Oct. 30 - 5:52 p.m.

Nov. 6 - 4:45 p.m., Nov. 13 - 4:39 p.m., Nov. 20 - 4:35 p.m., Nov. 27 - 4:32 p.m.

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

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

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

*Shana Tova
(Happy New Year)*

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

*Have an easy fast or
G'mar Chatima Tova
(May you be sealed in the
Book of Life for good)*



Sukkot

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 2

Sukkot is the harvest festival and a time to recall the Israelites' journey from slavery to the Promised Land. On the journey, they lived in *sukkot* (huts). Today we commemorate this by building three-sided, temporary booths with no real roof so the stars and sky can be seen, and no real doors. They are decorated with branches, fruits and vegetables of the harvest.

During the holiday it is highly encouraged to share a meal, study, play and sleep in a sukkah.

Sukkot is celebrated for one week.



Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

OCTOBER 3-4

Shemini Atzeret occurs on the day after the seven-day festival of Sukkot and is generally translated as "the eighth day of assembly." The Talmud declares the eighth day as a separate holiday dedicated to the love of God. In ancient Israel, Shemini Atzeret coincided with the beginning of the rainy season.

Each year in the synagogue, the Torah is read from start to finish. Simchat Torah (rejoicing in the Torah) occurs the day after Shemini Atzeret. This day marks the joyous completion of the annual cycle of reading the Torah: the day we finish reading the last section and begin re-reading the first section in the synagogue. To celebrate, adults and children parade with Torah scrolls.



Hanukkah

DECEMBER 4-12

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 in 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

Chag Sameach
(Happy Holiday)

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

Chag Sameach
(Happy Holiday)

TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

Happy Hanukkah or
Chag Sameach
(Happy Holiday)

JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING

CHAI ART SERIES

Tuesdays: September 1; October 6; November 10

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Passport Members - \$15/class

All Others - \$20/class

Join us for a monthly interactive Jewish learning series. Each month, we'll learn about a Jewish artist and then explore techniques or mediums to create our own masterpieces inspired by their works.

September: Painter & sculptor Otto Freundlich

October: Caricaturist & illustrator Yaakov Farkash

November: Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro

All materials provided.

REPAIR THE SEA: REVERSE TASHLICH

Sunday, September 6th | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: King-Lincoln Park

600 Jefferson Ave. Newport News

During Tashlich, we cast away our wrongdoings into the water. With Reverse Tashlich, we give back — cleaning our coastal waters as an act of intention, responsibility and care for the world around us. Join us for a meaningful ocean cleanup that combines Jewish tradition with environmental stewardship. *Families, volunteers and all ages are welcome. Supplies will be provided by the Newport News Green Foundation.*

DESSERT & DISCUSS SERIES

Wednesday Evenings:

September 30; October 14, 28; November 11;

December 9; January 13

7:00 p.m.

Free Community Event

Join us this fall for six thought-provoking Dessert & Discuss evenings featuring six distinct voices. Pull up a chair, enjoy something sweet and get ready for the kind of conversation that stays with you long after the last bite.

September 30th with Vered Sakal, Bertram and Gladys Aaron Professor of Jewish Studies, CNU

October 14th with Jonathan Zur, President & CEO of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

October 28th with Peyton H. Roberts, award-winning author

November 11th with Quentin Kidd, Provost & Executive Vice President, CNU

December 9th with Amy Miligan, Batten Endowed Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, ODU

January 13th with Maggie Fraser Kirsh, Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, W&M



ADULT HEBREW READING CLASS

Tuesdays: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 10, 17, 24

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Registration Required: \$54/person

This adult Hebrew reading class is the perfect entry point for anyone looking to connect more deeply with the Hebrew language. Whether you have little to no background or some experience you'd like to build on, you'll be guided through the Hebrew alphabet, letter recognition, vowel sounds and simple word formation at a pace that feels welcoming and accessible.

Taught by Carmela Malkin Kuhn.





ARTS & IDEAS

TEA OF THE MONTH CLUB

**Pick Up: First week of September, October & November
Passport Members - \$20**

All Others - \$25

Join us for our new take-home series, where each month this fall you'll pick up a curated sample of new teas to enjoy at home. Discover brewing tips, explore different flavor profiles and learn how simple additions can take your cup to the next (delicious) level.

SKILLS SERIES: BATIK BAGS

Wednesdays, Sept. 2 & 9 | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Passport Members - \$20/person

General Admission - \$25/person

Join us for this two-part series as we try our hand at batik, an age-old art form using wax and dye to create unique patterns. We'll use this technique to design our own custom canvas tote bags.

LANGLEY AIR FORCE WINDS ENSEMBLE: A CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY

Thursday, September 24th | 7:00 p.m.

Free Community Event

Just as Sukkot calls us to gather and celebrate together, join us as musicians from the Langley Air Force Winds Ensemble take the stage for a performance that brings our community under one roof for a night of music, reflection and connection. *All are welcome!*

SKILLS SERIES: CERAMIC LUMINARIES

Wednesdays: Oct. 7 & 14 | 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Passport Members - \$45/person

General Admission - \$50/person

Ceramics teacher Jess Hedrick is back for another fantastic handbuilding clay class! Over two sessions this October, you'll learn the techniques behind creating your own ceramic luminary or candle holder. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned potter, you'll leave with a one-of-a-kind keepsake to treasure.

THURSDAY NIGHT MOVIES

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

COMING SOON!

- **August 20: *Guns & Moses***
- **September 17: *Between the Temples***
- **October 22: *Treasure***
- **November 19: *Keep the Change***

at the J

Films begin at 7:00pm
Light snacks will be served



Guns & Moses

Thursday, August 20th | 7:00 p.m.

2024, 1hr 34min, Crime/Thriller, Rated R

When his congregation is violently attacked, beloved Hasidic Rabbi Mo Zaltzman isn't convinced police have arrested the right man. With no one else willing to dig deeper, he becomes an unlikely detective and soon discovers the truth is far more dangerous than anyone imagined. *Guns & Moses* is a timely and provocative thriller that asks how far one man will go to protect his community and what he might become in the process. The film stars Mark Feuerstein, Neal McDonough, Dermot Mulroney and Christopher Lloyd.

Between the Temples

Thursday, September 17th | 7:00 p.m.

2024, 1hr 51min, Comedy/Drama, R

Ben is a widowed cantor barely keeping it together, living back home with his meddling mothers who are pushing him back into the dating scene. A sense of unexpected purpose arrives in the form of Carla, his septuagenarian elementary school music teacher, who yearns to finally have the bat mitzvah she was denied as a child. While Ben initially resists, Carla's off-kilter but refreshing perspective on life proves to be exactly the shake-up he needs to start participating in his own life again. Warm, funny and deeply human, *Between the Temples* is an acclaimed comedy-drama starring Jason Schwartzman and Carol Kane, whose chemistry critics have called the heart of the film.



ART & SOUL: EXPRESSIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

Wednesdays: Nov. 4, 11, 18 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Passport Members - \$15

Community Members - \$30

Drop-In Class: \$12

Find your creative voice with this three-week workshop in art, expression and self-discovery. Guided by art therapist Jennie Abrams, we'll explore a variety of art-making practices that can calm the nervous system, encourage self-expression and promote greater self-awareness.

Open to all adults. No artistic experience is needed.

All materials are provided.

SKILLS SERIES: TEA BLENDING

Wednesday, November 11th | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Passport Members - \$15/person

General Admission - \$20/person

Take a midday break and join us for tea time! Learn how to experiment with different tea leaves and

ingredients to craft your own personalized blends. You'll enjoy tasting a variety of base teas along the way, and leave with 2-3 custom blends to brew and enjoy at home.

LUNCH & LEARN: PLATINUM RULES FOR ENJOYING LIFE

Thursday, November 19th | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Seniors - \$2.50/person

All Others - \$10/person

Join us for an inspiring afternoon with local authors Sylvia Weinstein Craft and Dr. Lisa Spiller as they discuss their co-authored book, *Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life* - a practical, uplifting guide to finding more joy, peace and fulfillment in everyday life.

Lunch begins at 12:00 p.m.

Presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. and runs approximately 45 minutes and will be followed by a Q&A with the authors.



Treasure

Thursday, October 22nd | 7:00 p.m.

2024, 1hr 51min, Comedy/Drama, Rated R

Ruth, an American music journalist, travels to Poland with her father Edek, a charmingly stubborn Holocaust survivor, on a road trip through his homeland. While Ruth is eager to dig into their history, Edek resists the weight of his memories, charming everyone along the way as their journey leads them ultimately to Auschwitz, where Edek miraculously survived. *Treasure* is a moving exploration of Holocaust memory, family and the complicated inheritance of trauma. Based on the novel *Too Many Men* by Lily Brett, the film stars Lena Dunham and Stephen Fry.

Keep the Change

Thursday, November 19th | 7:00 p.m.

2017, 1hr 34min, Comedy/Romance, Not Rated

When aspiring filmmaker David is mandated by a judge to attend a social program at the JCC, he is sure of one thing: he doesn't belong there. But when he's assigned to visit the Brooklyn Bridge with the vivacious Sarah, sparks fly and his convictions are tested. Sarah, confident in herself and her individuality, challenges David to embrace his own uniqueness as their relationship deepens. Warm, funny and refreshingly authentic, *Keep the Change* is a love story that puts neurodivergent characters front and center — both lead actors are themselves on the autism spectrum. The film won the Founders Award for Best Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival and holds a 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CAMP FAMILY PADDLE DAY

Sunday, August 16th | 6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Mariners' Lake

Get the family together on Mariners' Lake and discover what your campers have learned on the water all summer! Paddle boats are available on a first-come, first-served basis (weather permitting). Campers, counselors and camp staff who attended at least one week during 2026 may paddle for free, and their families will receive a bonus hour on rentals.

KIDS' ART CLUB

September Session: Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24

October Session: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November Session: Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Passport Members: \$35/child

General Admission: \$40/child

Send your petite Picasso to the J after school for some art fun, featuring a mix of guided art projects and open exploration of art materials designed for grades K and up. *All materials provided.*

COOKING WITH CARMELA: ROUND CHALLAH

Sunday, September 6th | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Passport Members - \$5/family

General Admission - \$10/family

Roll up your sleeves and get your hands doughy to welcome the new year! Join Carmela for a hands-on session as we mix and shape beautiful round challahs to welcome the Jewish New Year 5787. Take your dough home and bake it fresh for your Rosh Hashanah table!

JKIDS CHALLAH COVER WORKSHOP

Sunday, September 6th | 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10/child

Gymnasium

JKids (grades K–8) are getting creative for Shabbat! Join us for a hands-on art project where kids will design and decorate their very own challah covers using a variety of fun materials and techniques. *This is a drop-off event.*



LITTLE LIONS CLUB

Monday Evenings Beginning Sept. 28th - Nov. 30th
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Gymnasium

Little Lions Club is a first-touch soccer program for children ages 2–5, built around three rotating curriculum-based games per class and rooted in sportsmanship, love, respect and fun. Each 45-minute class encourages young players to work together, listen and have a great time. *Sarfan Center families: Your child can be walked directly to the gym by a staff member and picked up at Little Lions Club when you arrive.*

SCHOOL'S OUT CAMP

Friday, October 16th

Tuesday, November 3rd

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Introducing our brand new full-day program at the J designed for families who need reliable, trusted care on select days when school isn't in session. Students in grades K–5 will spend the day playing games, making new memories and hanging out with friends — all led by our experienced, energetic staff. From art and athletics to silly science experiments, every School's Out Camp day is packed with something for everyone.

JKIDS GLOW PARTY

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

Admission: \$10/child

Gymnasium

Get ready to glow! JKids (grades K–8) are in for an unforgettable evening of music, dancing, crafts and all things luminous. From the moment they walk in, kids will be immersed in a glowing atmosphere designed to spark creativity, get them moving and make memories that shine long after the night is over.

This is a drop-off event.

PJ LIBRARY: A HARVEST OF COLORS

Sunday, October 18th | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sarfan Infant/Toddler Building

The leaves are changing and fall is in the air — and we're celebrating every colorful moment of it! Little ones (ages 0-4) and their families are invited to join us for a warm and cozy morning of stories, creativity and community as we welcome the beauty of the season together.



Bring Jewish Stories Home

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

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



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

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 contact:

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.

JKIDS MYSTERY MANIA

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

\$10/child

Gymnasium

JKids (grades K–8) are in for a night of mystery, brain-teasing fun, and friendly competition! Put your thinking caps on and get ready to guess, deduce, and outthink your friends in a variety of exciting guessing games designed to test your knowledge, spark your creativity and keep you on your toes.

This is a drop-off event.

PJ LIBRARY: DREIDEL DISCOVERY

Sunday, November 8th | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sarfan Infant/Toddler Building

Celebrate Hanukkah with a colorful, creative twist on a beloved tradition. Little ones (infants through 4-year-olds) will dip dreidels into paint and spin them across canvases, creating unique, colorful masterpieces that are as one-of-a-kind as your child. Along the way, we'll celebrate the magic of Hanukkah through story time, creativity and hands-on play in a warm and welcoming setting.

CAMP CHAVERIM KARAOKE PARTY

Sunday, October 11th | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5/child

Gymnasium

The stage will be set and the microphone will be ready to reunite with your Camp Chaverim crew! Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of singing, dancing and pure camp energy as we celebrate our amazing campers and the summer we shared together. Whether you're a front-row performer or a backup dancer at heart, this will be your moment to shine. Belt out your favorite songs, cheer on your friends and keep the camp spirit alive well into the school year!

Light snacks will be available. RSVP required.

COOKING WITH CARMELA: HANUKKAH JELLY DONUTS

Sunday, November 29th | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Passport Members - \$5/family

General Admission - \$10/family

Get ready to fry, fill and celebrate! Learn how to make traditional *sufganiyot*, the beloved jelly-filled doughnuts that are as much a part of Hanukkah as the menorah itself. Whether you're a seasoned baker or a first-timer, this family-friendly event is a delicious and hands-on way to bring the flavors of the holiday to your Hanukkah table. Bring the whole family and make some sweet memories together!

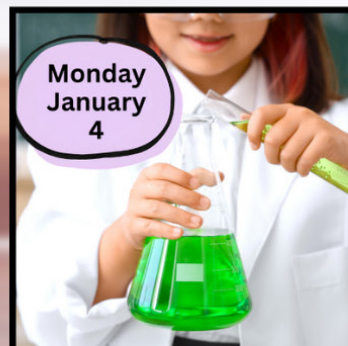
SCHOOL'S OUT ★ CAMP

NEW!

A full-day program
(9am-3pm) at the J
designed for families who
need reliable,
trusted care when
school isn't in session.

Beginning this fall,
the J will be hosting
School's Out Camp
on specific days
throughout the year.

Students in grades K-5 will spend
the day playing games, making
new memories and hanging out
with friends — all led by our
experienced, energetic staff.



School's out for the day so come
and play at the J!

jewishpeninsula.org/schools-out-camp



ACTIVE AGING

GRAND CLUB LUNCH & BINGO

Thursdays:

August 6, 13, 20, 27

September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19

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

COME PLAY! Bingo is 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.

MAH JONG

Thursdays:

August 6, 13, 20, 27

September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19

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 the tiles, just bring your own scoring cards. Come for the strategy, stay for the community! *Mah Jong begins after Grand Club lunch.*

KIBBITZ & CREATE

Thursdays:

September 24; October 29; November 19

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Library/Waters Media Resource Center

Join our crafting group the last Thursday of each month for a morning of snacks, crafting and chatting. Simply come with whatever project you're working on: knitting, crocheting, embroidery, drawing, or anything else, and enjoy the company of fellow crafters in a relaxed atmosphere.

No instruction or materials provided.



BEGINNER CROCHET CLASS

Wednesdays: Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

\$10/person

Our beginner crochet class will teach you the fundamentals from an experienced instructor. No prior experience is needed. During this four-week class, you will be guided step-by-step through your first project, helping you build confidence and develop the skills to continue crocheting at home. Whether you're looking for a new hobby, a way to unwind or want to create handmade gifts, this class offers a supportive environment to discover the joy of crochet.

All materials are provided. Space is limited!

GRAND CLUB LUNCH MENU

August 6

Tuna
Pasta salad
Fruit

August 13

Baked potato bar
Salad
Fruit

August 20

Quiche
Cucumber &
onion salad
Fruit

August 27

Chicken
White rice
Veggie

September 3

Pasta w/meat
sauce
Salad
Fruit

September 10

Salmon salad
Croissants
Orzo salad
Fruit

September 17

Deli sandwiches
Lentil soup
Chips

September 24

Lasagna
Garlic bread
Salad

October 1

Hot dogs
Baked beans
Coleslaw

October 8

Grilled cheese
Tomato soup
Salad

October 15

Chili
Rice
Salad

October 22

Tuna
Salad
Fruit

October 29

BBQ chicken
Potatoes &
onions
Veggie

November 5

Baked potato bar
Salad
Fruit

November 12

Quiche
Salad
Fruit

November 19

Roasted chicken
Dressing w/gravy
Sweet potatoes
Cabbage

November 26

Closed for
Thanksgiving

**Menus subject to change*

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jewishpeninsula.org/program-passport

or call the main office
at 757-930-1422



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- Jewish holiday celebrations
- Jewish life and learning classes
- Young adult events
- Youth programming and MORE!

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

RESTORATIVE YOGA

September 3, 8, 17, 22

October 8, 13, 22, 27

November 5, 12, 17, 24

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Passport Members - \$5/class

General Admission - \$10/class

Gymnasium

Treat yourself to a peaceful mid-morning escape with our gentle restorative yoga series, designed specifically with comfort and accessibility in mind. This practice can help ease joint stiffness, improve sleep quality and provide a wonderful sense of community with like-minded peers.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Wednesday, September 20th

Tuesday, October 6th

Wednesday, November 4th

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. One pint of blood can save up to three lives. Walk-ins welcome or schedule an appointment at jewishpeninsula.org/wellness

PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY

Sunday Mornings Beginning Oct. 11th

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

Gymnasium

Bring your crew out for open play pickleball every Sunday morning this fall. 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.*



BOOTCAMP FITNESS

Monday & Wednesday Evenings

October 19, 21, 26, 28

November 2, 4, 9, 10, 16, 18, 23, 25

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

Passport Members - \$5/class

General Admission - \$10/class

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.*

FLU VACCINE CLINIC

Thursday, October 15th | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gymnasium

Get your flu shot at the J! Jewish Peninsula has partnered with CVS to bring a flu vaccine clinic right to our campus. Senior dose and regular dose vaccines will be available. Visit our website to sign up for a convenient 15-minute time slot that works for you: jewishpeninsula.org/health/wellness

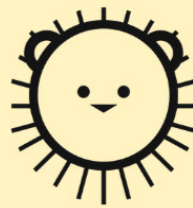
DIGNITY GROWS PACKING PARTY

Tuesday, November 17th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Frothy Moon

1826 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg

Join us for our next Dignity Grows Virginia Peninsula pack at The Frothy Moon in Williamsburg. Come pack totes filled with free monthly hygiene products for those who need them most, and enjoy everything The Frothy Moon has to offer, including bold brews, coffee, house-made sodas, a fire pit patio and free mini-golf. Bring the kids and make a night of it! *Outside food is welcome, but outside beverages are not permitted. This event is free to attend.*



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AGES 2-5



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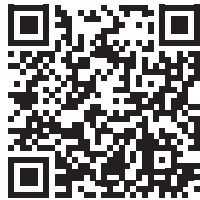
littlelionsfitness.com



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SPEAKER
SERIES

Dessert & Discuss

Join us for an intimate evening series featuring six dynamic speakers, each bringing a unique perspective and expertise to the table. Come ready to listen, learn and engage in the kind of meaningful conversation that only happens when great minds and good dessert come together.



SEPT. 30	VERED SAKAL
OCT. 14	JONATHAN ZUR
OCT. 28	PEYTON H. ROBERTS
NOV. 11	QUENTIN KIDD
DEC. 9	AMY MILIGAN
JAN. 13	MAGGIE FRASER KIRSH



Each speaker's topic will be announced soon!

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**School Closed
(Teacher Workdays)**
Monday, August 24th -
Friday, August 28th

**New Parent Orientation
Zoom Night**
Thursday, August 27th
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Children's Open House &
Meet the Teacher**
Friday, August 28th
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

First Day of School
Monday, August 31st

Parent Brunch Social
Sunday, October 11th
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Fire Safety Week
Monday, October 26th -
Friday, October 30th

Read-a-Thon Week
Monday, November 9th -
Friday, November 13th

HEBREW SCHOOL AT THE J

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Register at jewishpeninsula.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.

September Sessions

First Day September 15

September 22

September 29

October Sessions

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

November Sessions

No class November 3

November 10

November 17

November 24

December Sessions

December 1

December 8

December 15

December 22

No class December 29



JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL AT THE J

Sunday, October 18th | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

From Creation to Kindness

God created the world and entrusted us to help tend it. Through acts of kindness, *mitzvot* and *tikkun olam*, we become partners in an ongoing act of creation. In this session, we'll explore what it means to carry that responsibility through hands-on projects, engaging activities and meaningful learning that brings these values to life. Together, we'll discover how even the smallest gestures of care and compassion can help repair and renew the world around us.

Our Joint Sunday school program unites students from all of our area synagogues under one roof for collaborative Jewish learning.

Open to all kids in kindergarten through high school. Synagogue membership not required. Look for more information from your synagogue's Sunday School or on the J website.





THE PERFECT BLEND:
AN EVENING WITH CHEF YANIV
COHEN, "THE SPICE DETECTIVE"

Campaign Launch

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 25

As Seen On



And Coming to Our
Community This Fall!



A Summer to Remember: Camp Chaverim 2026

Summer at Camp Chaverim is many things - loud, joyful, occasionally covered in snow cone syrup and always full of heart. With 102 campers filling our gymnasium on opening day, the 2026 season delivered everything a great summer should: themed weeks that sparked curiosity and creativity, daily activities that pushed campers to try new things and the kind of friendships that last well beyond the final day of camp.

Each week at Camp Chaverim is shaped by a theme that brings learning and fun together in unexpected ways. This summer, campers explored the world of insects, channeled their inner engineers, took the stage as Broadway performers, traveled the globe through food, blasted off into space, competed in friendly games and — in true Camp Chaverim fashion — finished the summer with the two most legendary weeks of all: Color Wars and Blast Week.

Beyond the themes, the daily rhythm of camp is what keeps campers coming back year after year. Swimming, kayaking on Mariners' Lake, yoga, Gaga ball, art, Fab Fit Fun Athletics, Snow Cone Wednesdays, foosball, air hockey... every day was full from start to finish and no two days looked exactly the same.

None of it would have been possible without our incredible team of counselors, instructional specialists and J support staff. This year, our team also proudly earned CampSafe® certification, joining a national network of more than 15,000 trained camp staff dedicated to creating safe, nurturing environments for every camper. As Camp Director Naioki Wood reflected: "What makes Camp Chaverim special isn't any one week or activity, it's the community our campers and staff build together every single day."

The bus has been parked, the gymnasium is quiet again and the Camp Chaverim 2026 season has officially come to a close. But the friendships made, the skills learned and the memories created will last long after the spirit stick has been put away. And we can't wait to do it all again.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

(address sent upon registration)

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.

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.

TEMPLE BETH EL BOOK CLUB

Sundays: Aug. 9, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 | 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.

Aug. 9: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* (Michael Chabon)

Oct. 11: *The Weight of Ink* (Rachel Kadish)

Nov. 8: *For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today* (Elliot Cosgrove)

RST SISTERHOOD MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Wednesday, August 19th | 6:00 p.m.

Location: Port Warwick

191 Walt Whitman Ave. Newport News

Join RST Sisterhood for an outdoor concert with Roberta Lea on the grass at Port Warwick. Roberta performs a soulful mix of country and pop. Meet near Thaijindesu. Bring a blanket or chair and a vegetarian snack to share. Sisterhood will provide drinks.

JEWISH WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHALLAH BAKE

Sunday, August 23rd | 2:00 p.m.

Location: Chabad House, Williamsburg

(address sent upon registration)

Join Jewish women from throughout Williamsburg and the surrounding area for our Annual Community Challah Bake. Spend an uplifting afternoon connecting with friends, meeting new people and experiencing

the timeless mitzvah of making challah from scratch. Together we'll mix, knead, braid and prepare our challahs while enjoying meaningful conversation and Jewish inspiration. No experience is necessary. Just come ready to enjoy a meaningful afternoon with fellow Jewish women.

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

Sundays: Sept. 6; Nov. 29 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple

401 City Center Blvd. Newport News

Join the RST Sisterhood for lively discussions of books, both fiction and non-fiction, of Jewish interest. We welcome women throughout the Jewish community to join us for a "taste" of the Book Club and encourage Sisterhood membership (\$36/year) in order to continue joining in our book conversations.

September 6 - Hotel Cuba (Aaron Hamburger)

November 29 - Book selection TBD

PARASHAT HASHAVUA

Sundays: Sept. 27, Oct. 18, Nov. 15

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Temple Sinai

11620 Warwick Blvd. Newport News

Come and join in person at Temple Sinai for an informal Torah discussion and a delicious bagel nosh! Zoom invitation for those who are unable to attend in person is available by calling the Temple office.

JEWS IN HOLLYWOOD: ON THE SCREEN, BEHIND THE SCENES

Friday, October 9th | 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 (*Crossing Delancey*), with a brief discussion led by Fred Levy. RSVP deadline: Oct. 6th

IVRIT ACHSHAV HEBREW CLASS

Wednesdays: Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Temple Sinai

11620 Warwick Blvd. Newport News

Interested in learning Hebrew? Now is the time! Come join Rabbi Sokol at Temple Sinai for this six-week class.

SUE ANNE & BILL BANGEL LECTURE SERIES ON AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

Thursday, October 15th | 12:20 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Location: Christopher Newport University

DSU Board Room

1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News

New Israel New England: How Jews Shaped Colonial Readings of the Bible

Michael Hoberman explores the history of seveneenth and eighteenth-century Jewish – Christian interaction in the New World, especially in North America's British colonies. As long-time devotees of the Hebrew Bible, Protestants thought they knew all about Jewish history and Judaism as a religion. Their encounters with actual Jews, occurring as they did against the backdrop of a rapidly commercializing Atlantic World, brought many surprises.

JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS

Sundays: Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15; Dec. 6, 13, 20

10:15 a.m.

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple

401 City Center Blvd. Newport News

Join Rabbi Eligberg for this eight-week class, discussing Jewish medical ethics.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Sundays: Nov. 1, 15 | 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 TBD. This film festival is organized by Temple Beth El.

ADULT HEBREW CLASS

Thursdays: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5, 12; Apr. 23, 30

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.



PEARL SOCIETY

Women's Giving Circle



The Pearl Society Women's Giving Circle is made up of a group of women who contribute first and foremost to our own community, but who also desire to express themselves more personally throughout the Jewish world.

Each Pearl contributes to the giving circle, plus a minimum commitment to the J Annual Campaign. At the end of the year, through discussions and consensus, the group donates the giving circle funds to six non-profit organizations around the world.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN THE PEARL SOCIETY, PLEASE CONTACT SARA TRASTER
STRASTER@JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG

JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/WOMENS-PHILANTHROPY

dignitygrows

virginia peninsula

Packing Party

Nov. 17, 6pm

Give back and have a great night out!

We're heading to The Frothy Moon in Williamsburg for our next Dignity Grows packing party. Help us fill totes with essential monthly hygiene products for those who need them most, then enjoy everything this fantastic spot has to offer: bold brews, coffee, house-made sodas, a cozy fire pit patio and free mini-golf.

Kids are welcome, so make it a family night!

Free to attend.

Outside food welcome, outside beverages not permitted.



Join Us!



jewishpeninsula.org/
dignitygrows



JCRC ELECTION GUIDE

We Asked, They Answered: Virginia Peninsula Jewish Voter's Guide

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Jewish Peninsula has compiled a guide to the 2026 election to provide the information needed to become an informed voter.

This year's guide was produced both for the congressional races and the local races, with candidates answering questions important to the Jewish community in Virginia. The US-Israel relationship, antisemitism and many domestic concerns are front and center in the minds of Jewish voters. Hearing directly from the candidates seeking elected office on these important issues is paramount as you consider how to vote.

Visit: jewishpeninsula.org/election to view the guide and access other resources.

Are you registered to vote?

Visit www.elections.virginia.gov to confirm your status, find your polling place and more.

Important Dates

- Friday, October 23: The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail or online
- Friday, September 18: Voter registration offices are open for early voting
- Saturday, October 31: The last day of in-person, early voting at your local voter registration office
- Tuesday, November 3, 2026 is Election Day

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Jewish Peninsula does not make political endorsements. The voter's guide is for educational purposes only.



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2026 HIGH HOLIDAY GUIDE

ADATH JESHURUN CONGREGATION

ajshul.com

info@ajshul.com

757-930-0820

Adath Jeshurun is an open, non-judgemental environment where Jews of all types can gather, pray, learn and grow together.

Rosh Hashanah:

Saturday, Sept. 12th

Services begin at 9:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur: Monday, Sept. 21st

Services begin at 9:00 a.m.

CHABAD OF WILLIAMSBURG

chabadwilliamsburg.org

rabbi@jewishwilliamsburg.org

757-929-4999

Chabad of Williamsburg is a warm, welcoming hub for Jewish life, serving students, families and visitors with vibrant holiday programs, Shabbat dinners and engaging educational experiences. All are welcome; no membership required.

Rosh Hashanah Community Dinner: Friday, Sept. 11th

6:30 p.m. Community Dinner (RSVPs required)

Chabad House, Williamsburg

Rosh Hashanah: Saturday, Sept. 12th

9:30 a.m. Morning Services

Services followed by kiddush

Chabad House, Williamsburg

Rosh Hashanah: Sunday, Sept. 13th

9:30 a.m. Morning Services

Chabad House, Williamsburg

5:00 p.m. Shofar and Tashlich

Sunken Gardens, William & Mary

111 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg

Kol Nidre: Sunday, Sept. 20th

Services begin at 6:30 p.m.

Chabad House, Williamsburg

Yom Kippur: Monday, Sept. 21st

Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

Chabad House, Williamsburg

Sukkot Community Dinner: Friday, Sept. 25th

6:30 p.m. Community Dinner (RSVPs required)

Chabad House, Williamsburg



CONGREGATION EMET V'OR

emetvor.com

office.cevo@gmail.com

757-952-3737

CEVO is a diverse, supportive community and a meaningful place for Jewish individuals, families and anyone desiring to learn about Reform Judaism. We pride ourselves on our hospitality, and we welcome positive and committed individuals of all different religions, ethics and diverse backgrounds. We encourage blended and Jewish families to join us for Jewish experiences.

Location of services available upon RSVP

Erev Rosh Hashanah Services: Friday, Sept. 11th

Services begin at 7:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashana Services: Saturday, Sept. 12th

Services begin at 10:00 a.m.

Kol Nidre Services: Sunday, Sept. 20th

Services begin at 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur: Monday, Sept. 21st

Services begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by Yizkor

From the Kitchen to Community: Chef Yaniv Cohen to Bring Culinary Experience to Virginia Peninsula

If you're even a little bit hungry, be warned — talking to chef Yaniv Cohen is a dangerous proposition. By the end of the conversation, you'll likely find yourself rifling through your refrigerator looking for something to make!

Cohen is the man behind Miami's popular restaurant, Jaffa; the author of *My Spice Kitchen*; the proprietor of TheSpiceDetective.com and a fierce competitor on Netflix's *Best Leftovers Ever!* He expanded his restaurant concept to a second Jaffa location in South Florida's Hallandale Beach, bringing his beloved Israeli and Mediterranean flavors to an even wider audience.

Growing up in Israel as the oldest of five boys, Cohen's love of cooking started early, out of necessity as much as passion. His family, with roots in Iraq and Tunisia, centered their lives around food, Shabbat dinners and Jewish holidays. "Every Shabbat dinner we had a huge meal with friends and family," he says. "You could say hospitality is part of my DNA." His mother gave him the kitchen, the encouragement and a blank canvas to experiment on (even when things got burned).

As the self-proclaimed Spice Detective, Cohen has a deep and abiding love for all things seasoning. If pressed to name just one he can't live without, it's za'atar, the Middle Eastern herb from the thyme and oregano family. "You don't even have to cook it," he says. "You can sprinkle it in olive oil and dip your bread in it. It's a whole new experience." His awareness of the link between spices and wellness also goes back to childhood, where dinner table conversations regularly included the health benefits of turmeric, onions and fresh herbs. "As a kid, you think every family talks about it," he says. "When I got to the U.S., I realized that wasn't the case."

Cohen moved to New York in the late 1990s before eventually making his way to Miami in 2005, drawn by the beach, the warmth and the city's energy. "Every time I would come to Miami for vacation, I would think — I need to be here," he says. He never looked back.

This fall, Cohen is bringing his passion for food, spices and storytelling directly to our community. We are thrilled to welcome Yaniv to the J as the featured guest at our Annual Campaign Launch, an evening that promises to be as flavorful and inspiring as the man himself.

From his mother's kitchen in Israel to the stages of South Florida, Yaniv Cohen has never stopped doing what he loves most: bringing people together through food. We are honored to welcome him to our community this fall.



Za'atar Coconut Popcorn

Serves 6 to 8

2 tablespoons melted coconut oil
1/2 cup popcorn kernels
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons za'atar

In a tall pot, heat the oil, covered, over medium heat. Once the oil is hot, add the popcorn kernels and cover. Shake to ensure all the popcorn kernels are covered in the oil. Once there is a pause of more than 5 seconds between pops, turn off the stove and remove the popcorn from the heat. Let it sit for a few minutes.

Pour the popcorn into a large bowl. Add the salt and za'atar and combine well. Eat it hot and fresh!



CHEF'S TIP: Feel free to explore other flavors, such as sumac, caraway seeds, smoked paprika, cumin, freshly ground black pepper, Parmigiano-Reggiano, dried parsley or even a cinnamon and brown sugar mix!



Save the Date

Meet Chef
Yaniv Cohen
at the Annual
Campaign
Launch:
October 25th

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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





Giving with Purpose: Arthur Fass on Legacy, Community and Responsibility

For Arthur Fass, philanthropy has long been rooted in gratitude, responsibility and a deep commitment to community. He opened a donor-advised fund in the mid-1990s and has served as Treasurer of the UJCVP Endowment for more than 12 years. Today, his priorities center on three organizations close to his heart: Jewish Peninsula, Temple Sinai, and An Achievable Dream.

Having faced financial challenges earlier in life, Arthur doesn't take success for granted. "I've been fortunate in life. If I can help keep important organizations strong and help other people have opportunities, then that's what I want to do," he says. His giving is also shaped by personal experience that reinforced his belief that thoughtful philanthropy can change lives.

Arthur hopes his children will continue supporting the charitable funds he's established, believing generosity is a responsibility that comes with opportunity. "If they've got it, they should share it," he says, a philosophy that continues to shape his giving today.

For more information about setting up a Donor-Advised Fund visit jewishpeninsula.org/DAF or contact Jessi Malkin at jmalkin@jewishpeninsula.org

How a Donor-Advised Fund Works



GIVE

Establish a gift of \$10,000

or more (i.e.: cash, stock, real estate or other assets). When you contribute to your Donor-Advised Fund, you're eligible for an immediate tax deduction.

GROW



Your contribution is invested, so it has the

potential to grow tax-free while you decide which charities to support. The J handles all administrative requirements and provides you with detailed reports of your fund activity.

GRANT



You and your designated

fund advisors can make grant recommendations at any time to qualifying nonprofits.





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757-930-1422

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



Save the Date!
Oct. 25th

**The Perfect
Blend
Campaign
Launch**




Packing Party
at


**Nov. 17th
6:00 PM**



**SCHOOL'S
OUT
CAMP**

NEW! School's Out Camp
Come play at the J when there's no
school for the day!
More info on page 15

jewishpeninsula.org