



Jewish Peninsula

# SPRING 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.*

## IT'S A NEW YEAR - GET YOUR NEW PASSPORT! 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!

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Visit [jewishpeninsula.org](http://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.

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## **Arts & Ideas**

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

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## **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.

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## **Jewish Family Services**

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

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## **Active Aging**

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

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## **Health & Wellness**

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

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## **In the Classroom**

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

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## **Community Connections**

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

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# MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

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



## Strengthening Community Through Values and Advocacy

For Neil and Susan Portnoff, what began as a search for a warm place to vacation eventually led to a deeply rooted life grounded in Jewish values, community involvement and a passion for connection on the Peninsula. Their home is a hub for gathering. “We have 20–24 guests for Passover,” Susan shares, reflecting on their commitment to welcoming others.

Both speak passionately about the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, which they say shaped their family and continues to guide their community work. “Did we do something today to help make the world better?” Susan reflects. “Being nice to people, treating people equally—those are core Jewish values.”

This commitment naturally led them into Jewish advocacy and interfaith relationship-building in Williamsburg and on the Peninsula. “Advocating means helping people understand what Judaism is...removing the fear of the unknown,” Susan explains. For Neil, legislative advocacy is equally essential: “It’s important that legislators understand they have Jewish constituents with real concerns and that they hear those concerns directly.”

Their longtime involvement with the Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival is one of their proudest contributions. Films like *The Levys of Monticello* and *Who Will Write Our History* drew diverse audiences and sparked meaningful understanding. “These films help people learn about Judaism, the Holocaust and real life in Israel,” Neil explains.

The Portnoff’s giving is guided by clarity and intention. They support the organizations they know well and whose missions reflect their values. “If a Jewish organization is aligned with making the world a better place, we want to support them,” Neil says. Their philanthropy spans local, national and global institutions, from Temple Beth El and the J locally, to ADL and Holocaust remembrance efforts.

Through advocacy, education and generosity, Neil and Susan continue to strengthen Jewish life on the Peninsula one connection at a time.

**YES!**

I would like to support the J.



Donate online at [jewishpeninsula.org/donate-online](https://jewishpeninsula.org/donate-online)

OR

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

Dear Friends,

This Spring Program Guide weaves together a remarkable picture of who we are at Jewish Peninsula: a community leaning in and stepping up, a mission that is not only alive, but deeply felt, and a community united by purpose and action.

Within these pages, you will find more than dates and descriptions. You will find the story of a community choosing connection, meaning and responsibility in a time that calls for all three. Our programs reflect Jewish values that have guided us for generations - dignity, courage, compassion and care for one another - brought to life through shared experiences, service and celebration. At a moment when Jewish belonging matters more than ever, this guide reflects our collective resolve to show up, to stand together and to shape a hopeful future.

Among the many initiatives in our spring season is our Yom Ha'atzmaut Concert featuring **Project Heroes**—an unforgettable experience that celebrates Israel and tells the enduring story of the Jewish people. Through music and storytelling, those whose courage and compassion have brought light in times of darkness are honored. In a world that often feels heavy, it offers inspiration, pride and the reminder that our shared story continues, carried forward by each of us.

As the season further unfolds, celebration gives way to action with the launch of **Dignity Grows**, our signature social action initiative and a powerful expression of Jewish values in practice. We envision Dignity Grows as a unifying force, bringing our community together across generations, across programs and across lived experiences. Volunteerism is at its heart. When we pack, distribute, organize and advocate side by side, we transform compassion into impact and participation into a movement. This is how shared purpose becomes real change.

Together, these programs reflect who we are and who we are becoming. We invite you to join us this spring and be part of Jewish life on the Peninsula: vibrant, compassionate and alive.

Steven Marks  
President



*Steven Marks*

Eric Maurer  
Chief Executive Officer



*Eric Maurer*

# 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)

Feb. 6 - 5:18 p.m.; Feb. 13 - 5:26 p.m.; Feb. 20 - 5:33 p.m.; Feb. 27 - 5:40 p.m.  
Mar. 6 - 5:47 p.m.; Mar. 13 - 6:54 p.m.; Mar. 20 - 7:00 p.m.; Mar. 27 - 7:06 p.m.  
Apr. 3 - 7:12 p.m.; Apr. 10 - 7:19 p.m.; Apr. 17 - 7:25 p.m.; Apr. 25 - 7:31 p.m.

### TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

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



## Tu B'Shevat

**FEBRUARY 1-2**

*Families, join our special PJ Library Tu B'Shevat storytime on February 1.*

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)



## Purim

**MARCH 2-3**

*Celebrate with us at the Community Purim Carnival on March 8.*

Purim celebrates the Jewish people's survival against annihilation in ancient Persia, as told by the Book of Esther. This joyous, fun holiday honors the courage of Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who saved the Jewish people from the wicked tyrant Haman.

We celebrate Purim by reading the Megillah (the Purim story), giving to charity, enjoying a festive meal, dressing up in costumes and sharing gifts of food with friends. We also indulge in hamantaschen, triangle-shaped, filled cookies that symbolize Haman's three-cornered hat.

### TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

*Chag Sameach or Chag Purim Sameach*  
(Happy Holiday)



## Passover

APRIL 1-9

*The J will be closed April 2 & 3 and April 8 & 9.*

Passover is a week-long celebration of the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. *Pesach* (Passover in Hebrew) means "to pass over," referring to the miracle in which the Angel of Death passed over the houses of the Israelites, sparing them from death during the tenth plague.

The primary ritual of Passover is the *Seder*, a meal that involves eating an array of symbolic foods that commemorate the exodus from Egypt.

The first two and last two days of Passover are observed as holy days.



## Yom Ha'atzmaut

APRIL 21-22

*Join us for a special concert with Project Heroes on Apr. 26*

Yom Ha'atzmaut is Israel's Independence Day is celebrated on the date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel. Most Jewish communities in the Western world have incorporated this modern holiday into their calendars.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is always preceded by Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers. Linking these two holidays together sends the message that Israelis owe their independence to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

For American Jews, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut has been a way to express solidarity with Israel.



## Shavuot

MAY 21-23

*The J will be closed May 22*

Shavuot is a holiday that commemorates the spring harvest and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The word Shavuot means "weeks," and is a celebration of the completion of the counting period between Passover and Shavuot.

On Shavuot, it is customary to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments, stay up all night studying Torah and to enjoy dairy foods like blintzes and cheesecake.

### TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

*Chag Sameach or  
Chag Pesach Sameach  
(Happy Holiday)*

### TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

*Chag Sameach  
(Happy Holiday)*

### TRADITIONAL GREETINGS

*Chag Sameach  
(Happy Holiday)*

# JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING

## SUPER SUNDAY: BE THE INFLUENCE

**Sunday, February 1st | 9:00 a.m.**

For decades, Super Sunday has been a cornerstone of our community—an inspiring day when we come together to make a difference. Held on the Jewish Peninsula campus, this annual call-a-thon fundraiser has become a tradition that reflects the heart and soul of who we are: a community committed to supporting one another and building a brighter future.

Be an influencer for Jewish Peninsula by making your gift, answering the call on Super Sunday and encouraging your friends and family to get involved. Your voice and your generosity have the power to shape our community's future. When you lead, others follow.

*To volunteer for Super Sunday's phone-a-thon, visit: [jewishpeninsula.org/supersunday](http://jewishpeninsula.org/supersunday)*

## LUNCH & LEARN: JEWS & ROMANCE NOVELS

**Thursday, February 5th | 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**Seniors - \$2.50/person**

**All Others - \$10/person**

Join us for a delightful Lunch & Learn as we welcome author Stacey Agdern to explore the fascinating intersection of Jewish identity and romance literature! Discover how Jewish characters, traditions and values are woven into contemporary romance novels, and learn about the growing presence of Jewish representation in this beloved genre.

*Lunch will be served.*

## VIRGINIA JEWISH ADVOCACY DAY

**Tuesday, February 10th | 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

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

*Round trip transportation will be available from Newport News and Williamsburg.*



## BE THE INFLUENCE Super Sunday 2026

## NEXTGEN SHABBAT

**Friday, March 6th | 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Shabbat is better with friends! Join NextGen for a laid-back Shabbat dinner with 20–30 of your favorite people. We'll provide the pasta, you bring a dairy side dish to share. Families are welcome—come eat, relax and start your weekend right. *If you are Jewish, or Jewish adjacent, and in your 20s/30s/40s and want to socialize and make a difference, NextGen Peninsula is where you want to be!*

## YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

**Monday, April 13th | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Please join us for this year's Yom Hashoah commemoration. This program will include the presentation of the 25th annual Holocaust Writing and Visual Arts competition awards.

## RISE UP: PROJECT HEROES INDEPENDENCE CONCERT

**Sunday, April 26th | 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**\$18/person (Free for ages 15 and younger)**

**CNU Gaines Theatre, 1 University Place**

Join us for a special Yom Ha'atzmaut Independence Day concert to celebrate the resilience and heroism of the Jewish people, featuring live music, personal stories and moving visuals.

# ARTS & IDEAS

## SKILLS SERIES: SEDER PLATES

Tuesdays: Mar. 10, 17 | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Passport Members - \$40/person

Community Members - \$45/person

Ceramics teacher Jess Hedrick is back for another clay hand-building class! This spring, join us for a two-part series where you'll create a custom seder plate and matching bowls—just in time for Passover. Whether you're a beginner or a pottery pro, you'll leave with a one-of-a-kind centerpiece for holidays to come.

## WATCH & NOSH SUPER BOWL PARTY

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

Adults: \$10/person

Children: Free (ages 15 and younger)

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.

## FILM SCREENING: ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

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

Free Community Event

When a DNA test completely upends a woman's life, she embarks on a journey with her mother to find out who she is. *Light refreshments will be served.*

## THE ART OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIP

Sunday, March 1st | 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

\$36 - Includes Lunch, Dessert & Program

Female friendships: why we need them, how to find and keep them, when to fix them and when to let them go! *Featuring nationally acclaimed columnist, storyteller, author and influencer: Iris Ruth Pastor.*

## TUESDAYS AT THE TABLE: WATERCOLOR CLASS

Tuesdays: Apr. 7, 14, 21 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Passport Members - \$12 (\$4/class)

Community Members - \$24 (\$8/class)

Grab a seat at the table and let your creativity flow! Join us on Tuesdays for a three-part watercolor class for all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a brush for the first time or looking to refine your technique, you'll learn new skills, explore color and create beautiful work in a relaxed, supportive setting. All materials provided.

## FILM SCREENING: 31 CANDLES

Thursday, April 30th | 7:00 p.m.

Free Community Event

Leo Kadner, a 30-year-old New Yorker, has a Bar Mitzvah after reconnecting with his childhood crush, Eva Shapiro. To complete his Mitzvah project, Leo must deal with situationships, exes, and family while on a deadline. *Light refreshments will be served.*

## DIGNITY GROWS LAUNCH PARTY

Tuesday, May 12th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Coastal Fermentory Uptown

12515 Jefferson Ave. #600, Newport News

Join us for the launch of our Dignity Grows Virginia Peninsula chapter. Just in time for Period Poverty Awareness week, we will be meeting at Coastal Fermentory for a Dignity Grows social action party. We will be assembling tote bags with monthly period supplies, learning about period poverty and celebrating our Dignity Grows distribution partners.

*Dignity Grows is a national nonprofit working to end period poverty in the United States. Through direct hygiene support, groundbreaking research and systemic advocacy, Dignity Grows ensures that women and girls have consistent access to menstrual and hygiene necessities essential for education, employment, health and housing stability.*

**THE GREAT HAMENTASCHEN ART SHOW**

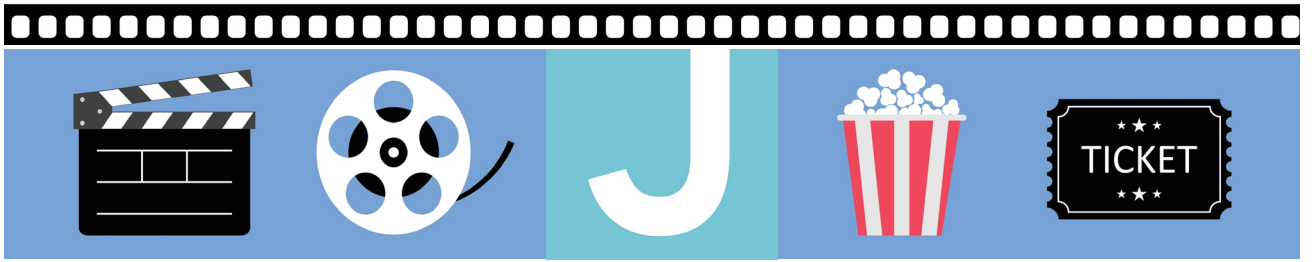
SUN. MARCH 8

12-3 PM

This Purim we're celebrating by hosting a community-wide art gallery to be displayed on March 8<sup>th</sup> at our annual Purim Carnival!

- Create a hamentaschen-inspired artwork using any media
- Ready to display or hang
- 14" x 14" or smaller
- All ages are encouraged to submit an art piece
- Art must be dropped off at the J by Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, 4pm

[MORE INFO/SUBMIT A PIECE -->](#)



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

### One Big Happy Family

2025, 1 hr 22 min, Comedy/Drama

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

On her 40th birthday, Rachel is grappling with a looming mid-life crisis and the nerve-racking task of delivering a speech at her daughter's Bat Mitzvah. But when a DNA test unexpectedly reveals that she's only half-Jewish and her beloved father isn't her biological parent, Rachel's life is thrown into disarray, and suddenly she's embarking on a hilarious journey with her eccentric mother to find out who she really is.

Admission: Free community event  
*Lite refreshments will be served*



### 31 Candles

2025, 1 hr 30 min, Romance/Comedy

Thursday, April 30th | 7:00 p.m.

This heartwarming and hilarious romantic comedy inspired by director Jonah Feingold's own experiences centers on Leo Kadner (played by Feingold), a 30-year-old New Yorker who unexpectedly decides to have his long-overdue Bar Mitzvah after a chance encounter with his former summer camp crush, Eva Shapiro (Sarah Coffey). As Leo navigates the ups and downs of growing up—situationships, exes and the quirks of family—he embarks on a Mitzvah project that just might help him finally mature. This charming independent film delves into themes of tradition, identity, and the lengths one will go for a second chance at love.

Admission: Free community event  
*Lite refreshments will be served*



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](http://jewishpeninsula.org/nextgen-peninsula)

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# CHILDREN & FAMILIES

## 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.

## KIDS' ART CLUB

February - Thursdays: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

March - Tuesdays: Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24

April - Thursdays: Apr. 16, 23, 30 \*

May - Tuesdays: May 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Passport Members - \$35 | \$25 for April Art Club\*

Community Members - \$40 | \$30 for April Art Club\*

*\*Please Note: April Art Club is three classes instead of four*

Join us after school for a messy, colorful, fun kids' art series at the J! Do you have a petite Picasso? Art Club will be a combination of directed art projects and open exploration of art materials.

February and May Art Club will be with Ms. Lowrus from Palmer Elementary School. March Art Club is a special clay edition with Ms. Jess Hedrick. April Art Club will be taught by Julia Downer.

## COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 8th | 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free Community Event

Gymnasium

Get ready for a day of joy and celebration as we come together to mark the festive holiday of Purim! Our carnival promises fun for the whole family with exciting bounce houses, thrilling amusements and games galore where everyone can win fun prizes.

*Lunch and hamantaschen will be available for purchase.*



## 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.*

## PJ LIBRARY MINI MAKERS

Sunday, March 15th: Passover

Sunday, April 12th: Springtime

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sarfan Center Infant/Tot Building

**Passover** - Little ones will get crafty making their very own Elijah's cups—ready to take home and place on the seder table. We'll listen to a Passover story and enjoy a kid-friendly snack.

**Springtime** - Littles and their grown-ups will gather for a special morning. We'll snack, read a springtime story together and create adorable pressed flower pinch pots—a keepsake craft your child will love making (and you'll love displaying!).

*Programs are for ages 2-4 with parent participation.*

## PJ LIBRARY BABIES

Sunday, March 15th: Froggy Friends Passover

Sunday, April 12th: Flower Friends Craft & Play

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

Sarfan Center Infant/Tot Building

**Froggy Friends Passover** - Our littlest ones will create adorable froggy footprint keepsakes—a nod to one of the ten plagues. We'll share a Passover story, enjoy a snack and make memories together.

**Flower Friends** - Babies and toddlers, and their parents, will enjoy a snack, hear a story and create flower sun catchers together. Come celebrate spring with your little one!

*Programs are for ages 0-2 with parent participation.*

## A TASTE OF CAMP

Sunday, March 22nd | 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\$5/child

Gymnasium

Gather with fellow camp friends to cook up some beloved camp recipes and hear all about what's coming next summer. It's part cooking, part preview and all fun—a perfect way to keep the camp spirit alive year-round. *This is a drop-off event.*

## JKIDS FIELD DAY

Sunday, April 12th | 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\$10/child

Gymnasium


Kids in grades K–8 will enjoy an action-packed afternoon of classic field day games - relay races, team challenges and more - full of friendly competition and outdoor play. Nutritious snacks will be provided to keep everyone fueled and ready to play.

## 40TH ANNUAL SARFAN CENTER 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN

Sunday, May 17th | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Mariners' Museum Southern Route

Join us for the 40th Annual 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run! Run, walk and celebrate with amusements, snow cones and donuts. Fun for the whole family—see you at the finish line!




### 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](http://jewishpeninsula.org/pjlibrary)  
or email: [carmela@jewishpeninsula.org](mailto: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.

**PJ OUR WAY™**

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](http://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.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CAMP CHAVERIM SUMMER CAMP

With the help of our community's generous support of the Annual Campaign, Jewish Peninsula makes every effort to ensure that no child is denied a quality summer camp experience.

**Financial Assistance applications are due no later than April 1, 2026.**

The application can be found at [jewishpeninsula.org/camp-chaverim](http://jewishpeninsula.org/camp-chaverim)

*All inquiries and applications are kept strictly confidential.*

**DOES 0% INTEREST SOUND interesting?**

**DO YOU NEED EXTRA FUNDING FOR COLLEGE OR GRAD SCHOOL THIS YEAR?**

**APPLY**

**JAN THROUGH APR** OR **AUG THROUGH SEPT**

**JELF** offers **0% interest**, last dollar loans for Jewish students pursuing a **full-time** education. JELF serves students from FL, GA, NC, SC, and VA (excluding metro D.C.), but students can attend any U.S. accredited university.

**LEARN MORE** OR GET A REMINDER ABOUT JELF'S APPLICATION PERIOD

[jelf.org/app](http://jelf.org/app)

Interest-free Loans for Higher Education **jelf** Jewish Educational Loan Fund

# Summer Camp Chaverim 2026



## About Camp Chaverim

Camp Chaverim is an accredited member of the American Camp Association.

We strive to provide the following opportunities for our campers:

- \*A fun-filled camp experience with lots of social and personal growth
- \*An enriched camp environment where Jewish activities and recreation are combined
- \*Athletics
- \*American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program
- \*Creative and Performing Arts
- \*Fun Friday Shabbat
- \*Leadership
- \*Events to promote cooperative and social activities with fellow campers to form lifelong friendships

Off-campus swim lessons, pool safety and free swim will be offered. Transportation will be provided by the J each day with a CDL licensed bus driver.



**REGISTER  
HERE!**

Registration opens Feb. 1st

**June 22  
THRU  
August 14  
8 Weeks of  
Summer Fun!**

**LOTS OF  
SAFE  
SUMMER  
FUN  
ACTIVITIES!**

### Camp Rates

#### \*Camp Kadima Rising K - 7th Grade

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM \$299/week  
Campers participate in skill building activities including swimming, arts & crafts, athletics, outdoor adventures & dramatic arts. Each session ends with a memorable Shabbat experience.

#### \*Teens As Leaders (TAL) Program 8th - 10th Grade

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM \$200/week  
The spirit, friendships & teamwork that are part of our leadership development program help teens gain confidence & valuable work experiences, while still participating in daily summer camp favorites. TAL workshops & sessions include off-campus experiences, problem solving & communication, social action & community service, stress management & decision-making, all through a Jewish values lens.

\*A non-refundable deposit of \$50 per week, per camper/TAL is needed to complete your registration.

#### \*Health & Safety

Health and safety is our number one priority at Camp Chaverim. We are committed to providing every camper at the J with a fun and exciting summer experience, while working to ensure each camper's safety. We are dedicated to creating a summer camp environment that encourages positive physical, mental, social, and emotional health for all our campers and staff. All ACA and Virginia Department of Health recommendations are closely followed and periodically reviewed.

### Calendar of Fun

**WEEK 1: JUNE 22-26**  
It's a Bug's Life

**WEEK 2: JUNE 29-JULY 3**  
Build It  
(closed on July 3)

**WEEK 3: JULY 6-10**  
Broadway Stars

**WEEK 4: JULY 13-17**  
Eat Around the World

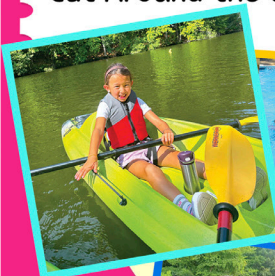
### Calendar of Fun

**WEEK 5: JULY 20-24**  
Adventures in Space

**WEEK 6: JULY 27-31**  
Game On!

**WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7**  
Color Wars:  
Backyard Olympics

**WEEK 8: AUGUST 10-14**  
BLAST WEEK



Follow on FB: J Camp Chaverim

Registration: [jewishpeninsula.org/camp-chaverim](http://jewishpeninsula.org/camp-chaverim)

# ACTIVE AGING



## GRAND CLUB LUNCH & BINGO

Thursdays: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26;  
Apr. 16, 23, 30

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

### February 5

Lasagna  
Salad  
Garlic Toast

### February 12

Salmon  
Rice  
Vegetable

### February 19

Hearty Vegetable Soup  
Salad  
Garlic Toast

### February 26

Chili  
Rice  
Cornbread

### March 5

Breakfast for Lunch

### March 12

Deli sandwiches  
Chips  
Coleslaw  
Fruit

### March 19

Baked potato bar  
Salad

### March 26

Tuna  
Chips  
Fruit

### April 2

Closed for Passover

### April 9

Closed for Passover

### April 16

BBQ chicken  
Rice  
Vegetable

### April 23

Quiche  
Salad  
Fruit

### April 30

Grilled cheese  
Tomato soup  
Fruit

*\*Menus subject to change*

## MAH JONG

Thursdays: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26;  
Apr. 16, 23, 30;

### 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: Feb. 26; Mar. 26; Apr. 30; May 28  
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

Thursday, February 26th

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.*

You Belong Here!

## JOIN OUR PROGRAM PASSPORT MEMBERSHIP

View our senior Passport Membership rates online at

[jewishpeninsula.org/program-passport](http://jewishpeninsula.org/program-passport)

or call the main office  
at 757-930-1422

JEWISH PENINSULA



# Annual Meeting 2026

Join us as we recognize outgoing President Steve Marks and Incoming president Steve Shapiro

Lunch, community awards and recognitions, a year in review

\* SAVE THE DATE!



## Program Passport Membership

The J Passport 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](http://jewishpeninsula.org) for pricing & more info.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## ADULT KRAV MAGA

Sundays: Feb. 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Gymnasium

Passport Members - \$200/person

Community Members - \$250/person

\*Family discount available - check our website for rates!

[jewishpeninsula.org/wellness](http://jewishpeninsula.org/wellness)

Krav Maga is a self-defense system developed for the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to maximize your impact and minimize your risk in a self-defense situation. It combines practical techniques from various martial arts methods to defend yourself on your feet or on the ground. In this 6-week class, students will experience firsthand their own power, strength and resilience in a safe and disciplined atmosphere. Suitable for all fitness levels, beginners to Krav Maga, as well as those looking to sharpen their self-defense skills. Classes will be taught by instructors from Krav Maga Hampton Roads.

*Participants must be 13+ years old.*

## 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.*



## 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: Feb. 1; Mar. 1; Apr. 5; May 3 | 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.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, February 20th; Tuesday, March 31st;

Wednesday, April 29th; Wednesday, May 13th  
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](http://jewishpeninsula.org/wellness)

# Sarfan Center Donut DASH 5K 1M



**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**  
Join us for our 40th race year!

**PLACE:** Mariners' Museum Southern Route  
(across from Warwick High School)



**TIME:**

8am - Registration  
9am - 1 Mile Fun Run  
9:30am - 5K Run/Walk  
10:30am - 50 Yard Dash

**ENTRY:**

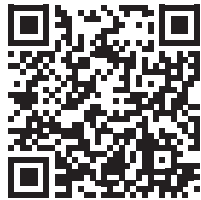
Pre-Registration (*by 5/1*)  
1 Mile - \$15 | 5K - \$25  
Regular Registration (*after 5/1*)  
1 Mile - \$20 | 5K - \$30

**FOR COURSE MAPS, RACE FAQs & SPONSORSHIP INFO VISIT**  
[jewishpeninsula.org/5k](http://jewishpeninsula.org/5k)

WE ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF

# The United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula

CONNECT WITH US



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APRIL  
26TH

LIVE MUSIC

PERSONAL  
STORIES

MOVING  
VISUALS

# RISE UP: *Project Heroes* INDEPENDENCE CONCERT

featuring  
**Gilad Segev**

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> | 3:00-5:00 p.m.

CNU Gaines Theatre, 1 University Pl. Newport News

**\$18/person | Free for ages 15 and under**

[JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/RISE-UP](https://JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/RISE-UP)

*Celebrate the resilience and heroism of the Jewish people.*



Presented by

**JEWISH PENINSULA**

**LARRY KING LAW**

KNOWLEDGE • EXPERIENCE • COMMITMENT



# IN THE CLASSROOM

## SARFAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Whether you are an expectant 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.

**School Closed  
(for President's Day)**  
Monday, February 16th

**School Closed  
(for Spring Break)**  
Thursday, April 2nd -  
Friday, April 10th

**Community Purim  
Carnival**  
Sunday, March 8th  
12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Mommy & Me**  
Sunday, May 3rd  
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**Daddy & Me**  
Sunday, March 22nd  
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**5K & 1 Mile Fun Run**  
Sunday, May 17th  
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Register for school at [sarfancenter.org](http://sarfancenter.org)



**Registration for the 2026-2027  
school year is open!**  
**Space is limited!**



Visit the website for more information and to download the registration form.  
[sarfancenter.org](http://sarfancenter.org)



**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](http://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.*

### February Sessions

Tuesday, February 3rd  
Tuesday, February 10th  
Tuesday, February 17th  
Tuesday, February 24th

### April Sessions

No class April 7  
Tuesday, April 14th  
Tuesday, April 21st  
Tuesday, April 28th

### March Sessions

No class March 3  
Tuesday, March 10th  
Tuesday, March 17th  
Tuesday, March 24th  
Tuesday, March 31st

### May Sessions

Tuesday, May 5th  
Tuesday, May 12th  
Tuesday, May 19th  
*Last day of class*



## JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL AT THE J: JEWISH INFLUENCERS

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

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

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?

*Open to all kids in kindergarten through high school. Synagogue membership not required. Look out for more information from your synagogue's Sunday School.*



Join us for the launch of



# dignitygrows

## virginia peninsula

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> | 6:00 - 8:00pm

@ Coastal Fermentory Uptown

12515 Jefferson Ave. #600

Jewish Peninsula is excited to launch a new chapter of the national Dignity Grows program, designed to distribute free, monthly personal and feminine hygiene products to anyone who cannot afford them.

Just in time for Period Poverty Awareness week, we will be meeting at Coastal Fermentory for a Dignity Grows social action party. We will be assembling tote bags with monthly period supplies, learning about period poverty and celebrating our Dignity Grows distribution partners.



[jewishpeninsula.org/dignitygrows](http://jewishpeninsula.org/dignitygrows)



**JEWISH**  
PENINSULA



**TOWNE BANK**





NOW RECRUITING

# ATHLETES

FOR THE 2026 JCC MACCABI GAMES



Join 3,000 Jewish teen athletes from around the globe at the **world's largest** Jewish youth sporting event.

The JCC Maccabi Games offers Olympic-style sports competitions, including opening and closing ceremonies; travel; community service; social and cultural events; and opportunities to make friends and memories to last a lifetime!

Find out how you can join **Team Virginia Peninsula** and represent your community in Toronto this summer.

JCC MACCABI GAMES INFO MEETING  
Sunday, February 8th | 5pm



## THIS WAY TO AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER



[ONEHAPPYCAMPER.ORG](http://ONEHAPPYCAMPER.ORG)

**GET UP TO \$1,500 OFF CAMP**

Grants available for first-time campers at Jewish overnight summer camp!



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

## ADULT EDUCATION, TORAH STUDY

**Sundays: Feb. 1; Mar. 8; Apr. 19; May 17 | 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.

## 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.

## 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: 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.

## TU B'SHEVAT POTLUCK DINNER

**Friday, February 6th | 6:00 p.m.**

**Location: Temple Beth El**

**600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg**

Join the TBE community to celebrate Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat with a potluck dinner and short Shabbat service.

## HAVDALAH HANGOUT

**Saturdays at sundown**

**Location: Rodef Sholom Temple Library**

**401 City Center Blvd. Newport News**

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.

## 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.

## SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES

**Sunday, February 8th | 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Temple Beth El**

**600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg**

Join TBE member Jo Feingold to learn how to stay safe on the internet in the age of AI, phishing scams and more.

## JEWS IN HOLLYWOOD: ON THE SCREEN, BEHIND THE SCENES

**Fridays: Feb. 20; Apr. 10 | 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: Feb. 17/Apr. 7

## TEMPLE BETH EL BOOK CLUB

**Sundays: Feb. 22; Mar. 8; Apr. 12; May 17 | 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.

Feb. 22: *As a Jew* (Sarah Hurwitz)

Mar/Apr/May: *TBD*

## ADULT EDUCATION: FIVE SACRED SCROLLS

**Sunday, March 1st | 10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, April 4th | following kiddush lunch**

**Saturday, May 23rd | following kiddush lunch**

**Location: Rodef Sholom Temple**

**401 City Center Blvd. Newport News**

Mar. 1 - Brilliant Disguise: Inversions and Reversals in the Book of Esther

Apr. 4 - In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida: Love Songs in the Biblical Garden (Song of Songs)

May 23 - The Long and Winding Road: Love, Loss, Loyalty and Redemption in the Book of Ruth

## VIRGINIA PENINSULA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

**Sundays: Mar. 1, Mar. 22 | 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. This film festival is organized by Temple Beth El.

Mar. 1: *The Blond Boy from the Casbah*

Mar. 22: *The Optimist*

## 2,381ST GOLDEN GROGGER AWARDS

**Monday, March 2nd | 5:30 p.m.**

**Location: Rodef Sholom Temple**

**401 City Center Blvd. Newport News**

Walk the red carpet at RST for the Golden Grogger Awards. Enjoy a lite supper followed by a spiel and the Megillah.

## STAR WARS & PURIM: THE MEGILLAH ODYSSEY

**Monday, March 2nd | 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: Congregation Emet V'Or**

**101 Production Way, Suite 101**

Join CEVO for a special Star Wars Megillah reading for Purim. Share thematic connections like hidden saviors, fighting evil empires, the struggle between good and evil and word play.

## PURIM AT TBE

**Monday, March 2nd | 7:00 p.m.**

**Location: Temple Beth El**

**600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg**

Come in your best costume, compete in the hamentaschen contest and enjoy numerous interpretations of the story of Esther. Be prepared for plenty of noise and laughs.

## SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

**Sundays: Mar. 22; May 17 | 10:00 a.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. Book selection TBD. Contact the office for more info.

*continued on next page*

## MUSICAL FOSSILS: SAMPLING JEWISH PRAYER IN POP, ROCK & HIP HOP

Sunday, March 22nd | 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Location: Torggler Fine Arts Center  
1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News

Join CNU professor Mike Levine to explore how Jewish liturgy has influenced popular music - from Al Jolson's *Kol Nidre* to Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* to Matisyahu's Hasidic hip-hop.

## TBE COMMUNITY SEDER

Thursday, April 2nd | 6:30 p.m.

Location: The Settlement at Powhatan Creek  
Clubhouse

500 Winding Creek, Williamsburg

Join in for TBE's annual second night Passover community Seder, featuring an inclusive Haggadah, full Seder plate and delicious catered meal (vegetarian options available).

## SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND BRUNCH

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

Location: Rodef Sholom Temple  
401 City Center Blvd. Newport News

Our annual Torah Fund brunch features a special presentation by Tess Goldblatt, the Jane Fairman Director of Congregational Learning for Rodef Sholom Temple. She'll explore the significance of names and offer an innovative spiritual naming opportunity. Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at Conservative Movement institutions worldwide—and RST Sisterhood has proudly supported this campaign for decades. Join us! Brunch is \$20; an \$18 minimum donation to Torah Fund is encouraged. RSVP by 4/7.

## SHAVUOT POTLUCK & STUDY SESSION

Thursday, May 22st | 6:30 p.m.

Location: Temple Beth El  
600 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg

Celebrate with TBE for the annual potluck dairy meal, followed by a traditional Shavuot evening study session. All interested members are invited to lead a brief, 10–20-minute teaching about a Jewish text of their choice.

The Community Relations Council of Jewish Peninsula invites you to

# Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day



**TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 10TH  
8:30AM – 2:00PM**

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 Jewish communities!

[JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/ADVOCACY-DAY](http://JEWISHPENINSULA.ORG/ADVOCACY-DAY)





JEWISH PENINSULA

# PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

HELP LOCAL JEWISH FAMILIES  
CELEBRATE PASSOVER

Drop off donations to the J by  
**Mon. March 16th**

Donations will be provided to families in need, those on a limited budget or homebound.

JFS will be making deliveries of Passover items.



If you are able to help deliver gift bags, we'd love to hear from you. A friendly visit during delivery is a meaningful way to brighten someone's day!



## ITEMS NEEDED

- Matzah/Matzah Ball Mix
- Grape Juice
- Gefilte Fish
- Honey
- Candied Fruit Slices
- Macaroons & Cake Mix
- Grocery Gift Cards

*If you find yourself struggling to afford kosher for Passover food, please contact Libby Batten, Jewish Family Services Director: 757-223-5635 | lbatten@jewishpeninsula.org*



**PENINSULA  
FUNERAL HOME  
& CREMATORY**

Since 1927

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Reduce the burden on your loved ones by making your funeral arrangements in advance.

Visit [PeninsulaFuneralHome.com](http://PeninsulaFuneralHome.com) to learn more.



**757-595-4424**

11144 Warwick Blvd • Newport News, VA



# Staff Directory

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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](http://jewishpeninsula.org/campus)





## Donor Advised Funds: A Thoughtful Approach to Giving

Philanthropy was modeled early for Janet Glasofer, not through formal lessons, but through quiet consistency. “My parents supported multiple charities... somehow, I was aware of it,” she shared. From supporting a congregation to caring generously for people in their household and community, even while living overseas, giving was simply part of daily life. Education became a lasting value, inspired by parents who later endowed a professorship and helped fund a science lab at a college they loved. That example continues to guide Janet’s own approach to legacy giving today, rooted in a strong sense of responsibility.

A donor-advised fund has helped transform that sense of responsibility into a thoughtful, strategic practice. “That’s one of the things that the donor-advised fund has made me more aware of,” she explained. By planning her giving annually, she’s become more intentional and effective, choosing to make “larger checks to fewer organizations” rather than reacting to constant requests for smaller donations. This structure also allows space for passion projects with long-term impact, especially those that can grow beyond a single moment. “Pick something that will perpetuate,” she said, describing their desire to support initiatives that create “rings and rings and rings that you build on.”

One such passion project is a mini-grant program supporting Newport News Public Schools educators, a cause deeply personal to this former educator, who once received a mini-grant herself. “I was a recipient long before I was a donor,” she noted. Being involved from the beginning and working collaboratively with fellow volunteers and school leaders has affirmed her values around stewardship and shared decision-making.

Looking ahead, her hope is simple and profound: “I hope my kids are watching,” she said. For those just beginning their philanthropic journey, her advice is clear: “Not making a long-term goal was the mistake I made... you just plan ahead.” Through intentional planning, community partnership, and legacy-minded giving, Janet continues to turn values into lasting impact.

## How a Donor Advised Fund Works



### GIVE

Establish a gift of \$5,000 or

more (ie: cash, stock, real estate or other assets) or build up to this level over time (two to five years). 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.

For more information about setting up a Donor Advised Fund visit [jewishpeninsula.org/DAF](http://jewishpeninsula.org/DAF) or contact Jessi Malkin at [jmalkin@jewishpeninsula.org](mailto:jmalkin@jewishpeninsula.org)





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

**Super Sunday 2026**



**Rise Up: Project Heroes  
Independence Day Concert**  
Sunday, April 26th - 3:00 PM

May 12th  
6:00 PM

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