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Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

December 2024/5785

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BAGELS & FRAYLOX

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Eric & Jack Luckman Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Jeff Luckman's 70th Birthday

- Kathy Borelli
- Lindsay Borelli
- Jean Farrar
- Bonnie Katzenberg
- Lisa & Terry Margulis
- Robin & Kenny Murov
- Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum

UJC Preschool Fund

In memory of David Gussman's mother

- Carmela Malkin Kuhn

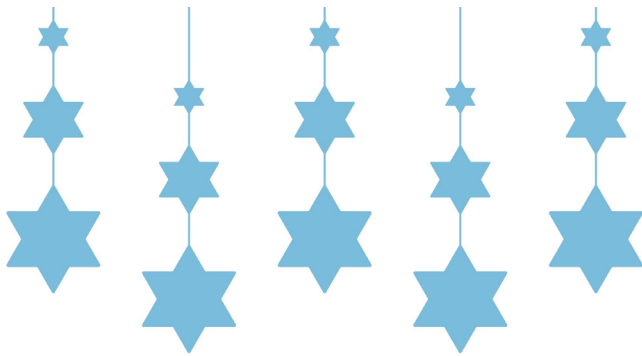
Unrestricted UJC Fund

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Friedman of their 65th wedding anniversary

- Ettalea Kanter

In honor of Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum

- Ettalea Kanter



Winter Break Closings

The Sarfan Center will be closed
Mon. Dec. 23rd – Wed. Jan. 1st

The UJC will be closed
Tues. Dec. 24th – Wed. Jan. 1st

President's Message - Steve Marks



As an integrated Jewish community, the UJC has received guidance from both of its two parent organizations—the Jewish Community Center Association of America, and the Jewish Federations of North America. At this year's General Assembly, I had the honor and privilege of attending both annual meetings - emotional first-time gatherings of its members since October 7. Both meetings united its Jewish constituents with shared visions and commitments to building vibrant Jewish futures. These were unique opportunities for community leaders, innovators, and activists from North America and beyond to come together, exchange perspectives, and collectively chart a course for a stronger and more resilient Jewish world.

At the recent JFNA event we heard personally from Yitzhak Herzog. We heard multiple national thought leaders discuss issues of our times—the Israel crisis, antisemitism, violence and vitriol on our campuses, the needs for advocacy education, Jewish education, and Israel education. We were inspired by words of the spiritual leader Mijal Bitton; journalist and voice of antisemitism Bari Weiss; and Sheryl Sandberg, previous Facebook COO, founder of Leanin.com, and advocate for antisemitic initiatives. We heard stirring voices and music. Perhaps nothing touched our hearts more than the emotional stories of eight hostage families who live in agonizing uncertainty.



The overarching theme of the assembly was the need for the strength, unity, and resilience of the Jewish people—and the concept that investing in Jewish life is the best investment to fight antisemitism. The need to support, sustain, and elevate Jewish life wherever it may be. The goal of helping Jews find the places in which they are most comfortable.

We must show our pride to be a part of a people who can show up for each other. Israel's pains are our pains. Israel's destiny is our destiny. Even in the darkest day, we are not alone. We must continue to stand as one people, one heart. We cannot lose the opportunity to equal the dignity and virtue that Israel eludes every day. We must share our Jewish values with the world.

Our ancestors knew that our existence would be a difficult one. With our lives in America the past seven decades, we forgot about how hard it was for much of our history to be a Jew. Now we are reminded of our responsibility to our people. Now we must have the courage yet again to stand up to evil. We are now more broken than a people can be, yet stronger than a people can be. No matter what we have done, we can do more.





2025 JCC MACCABI GAMES

08
DECEMBER

OPEN HOUSE

at the UJCVP

1:00
P.M.

MEET OTHER TEENS

who want to be part of Team Virginia

MEET THE STAFF

get to know Team Virginia's Delegation Heads

ENJOY SNACKS

as you mingle with other teens and families

GATHER INFO

learn which sports are offered for the Maccabi Games

03-08
AUGUST

MACCABI GAMES

in Pittsburgh, PA

RSVP: ujcvp.org/teens



December 9th

Naioki Wood
Camp Chaverim Director,
Sarfan Center Asst. Director

Happy
Birthday



Join us for our NextGen Peninsula Event!
December 15th, 2-3:30pm

Drop your kids off at PJ Library and connect with fellow parents and leaders in a new way.
No kids? Come and enjoy the community!

Join NextGen Peninsula as we explore Hanukkah by tasting olive oils and hearing about the Hanukkah traditions of the regions from which the oils come.

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!

RSVP: ujcvp.org/nextgen



NextGen
United Jewish Community
Virginia Peninsula

Education Corner - Carmela Malkin Kuhn



Sarfan Center Welcomes Special Visitors

This month the Sarfan Center welcomed guests of all sizes!

Firefighters and first responders from Fire Station #6 shared their knowledge and equipment with us during Fire Safety Week. Students toured a fire truck, learned about the important work of a firefighter, and practiced putting out fires!

Parents, grandparents and even UJCVP leadership visited our classrooms to share their favorite stories in participation of our READ-A-THON week. Throughout the week, we highlighted the importance of early literacy

and logged a total of 1,620 minutes!

The fun certainly didn't stop there! Thanks to Angela Morris, we were able to spend our morning feeding, petting and playing with goats! We loved being able to share these special moments together.



Red Cross Blood Drives at the UJC

Monday, Dec. 9th, 10am-2pm
Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 10am-3pm

One pint of blood can save up to three lives!

Schedule an appointment at ujcvp.org



Inside the Middle East - Intelligence Analyst Avi Melamed to Give Briefing at the UJCVP



As the Middle East navigates a storm of unprecedented challenges, we stand at a pivotal juncture that will define the future of Israel, the Palestinians, and the entire region. As the world grapples with escalating conflict, understanding the core issues becomes vital.

Avi Melamed, an expert on current affairs in the Arab & Muslim world and their impact on Israel and the Middle East, will be travelling to Newport News to lead a briefing with the Jewish community. Avi is a former Israeli intelligence official and senior official on Arab Affairs he has held high-risk government, senior advisory, intelligence and counter-terrorist intelligence positions in Arab cities and communities often in very sensitive times on behalf of Israeli government.

In this critical briefing, Avi will delve deep into the forces driving these turbulent times, unravel the intricate complexities beneath the surface, look at “the day after,” and assess the far-reaching implications for both the region, and the world. By connecting the dots between past and present and all figures and forces, he’ll guide you from the eye of the storm to the horizon’s edge, offering clarity and context to help you navigate the rapidly unfolding events.

The Middle East is a link of chains. What happens in one area impacts what happens in another. And what happens in the Middle East does not stay in the Middle East. This briefing takes you beyond the headlines and behind the scenes for a holistic understanding of the layers of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We will zoom in and zoom out as we explore the Gaza Strip and the Middle East. How do domestic and regional events throughout history – until today – impact the Palestinians’ lives in Gaza and Israelis near and far from Gaza? What can be done to create a better reality for Israelis and Palestinians? This session is critical for anyone who wants to advance a constructive, productive, and sustainable framework that can improve the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.

Avi Melamed will be speaking at the UJCVP on Sunday, January 5, at 6:30pm.

For more information or to RSVP, visit ujcvp.org. The program is funded by a grant from the JCCA.

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Summer Camp Chaverim - Naioki Wood



When life gives you leaves, you play in them!

As the school year rolls along, we scurry to find the perfect opportunities to recapture and reignite many of our summer successes. Camp Chaverim opened its doors on a crisp, fall afternoon to a bunch of excited campers for our 2024 Camp Reunion Bash. Campers young and old joined us for an afternoon for our favorite camp activities like soccer and gaga. Counselors joined in on the fun by retelling some of their favorite summertime moments.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT CAMP EVENT:

January 18th, 7-9pm

**Youth New Year
Movie Night**

More info coming soon!



Evening classes at the J!
Monday / Wednesday Evenings
5:30-6:30pm with instructor Kelli Paul

Bootcamp Fitness, LLC 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.**
Bootcamp Fitness provides all other equipment.

Passport Members - \$5/class | Community Members - \$10/class

Visit ujcvp.org/wellness to sign up!

Workshop Brings Sunday School Together with the Joy of Klezmer Music

Laughter and song echoed through the UJCVP as children gathered for a lively workshop introducing them to the unique world of Klezmer music. The workshop, designed to teach kids about the rich history and vibrant energy of Klezmer, had participants singing, stomping, and clapping along to lively Yiddish tunes. From toddlers to middle schoolers, students were swept up in the spirit of the music, and even parents joined in, adding to the joyful atmosphere.

The combined Sunday Schools of Temple Sinai, Rodef Shalom Temple, Temple Beth El and Congregation Emet V'Or participated in the workshop and were joined by unaffiliated families.

The workshop was led by visiting musicians Leeav and Janice from the nationally acclaimed band Mostly Kosher. They were in town to promote their upcoming December 1st concert at the Ferguson Center. Young participants were encouraged to sing along to classic Yiddish folk songs, with each verse accompanied by enthusiastic clapping and stomping to keep the rhythm. This hands-on approach proved to be a hit with the children, many of whom were hearing Klezmer music for the first time. "This was so much fun!" exclaimed one student, his hands red from clapping.

In addition to singing and dancing, the workshop included a meaningful lesson on hadur mitzvah, the Jewish concept of beautifying a mitzvah, or commandment, through art and creativity. Kids explored the idea of adding beauty and spirit to

Jewish traditions, like music, as a way to make them even more special.

Inspired by hadur mitzvah, the students then had the opportunity to craft their own Jewish musical instruments. Each decorated tambourine reflected the unique artistic expression of its young maker. "It's so nice to see children connecting to their heritage in such a hands-on way," shared one parent. "They're not just learning about Jewish culture; they're also bringing it to life."

At one point, the group broke out in dance, filling the room with swirling melodies and laughter. The children left with their handcrafted instruments in hand, eager to take home the music and memories from the afternoon.



Mostly Koshher Concert at Ferguson Center for the Arts

Sunday, Dec. 1st - 3:00pm



Enter coupon
code:

UJCVP

at checkout
to save 15% off
ticket prices!



Tickets on sale at: fergusoncenter.org/events/detail/mostly-kosher



Kibbitz & Create

Thursday, December 19th, 10am-12pm

Join our group at the J for a morning of
chatting, crafting, and snacks.
All fiber arts crafts welcome!

RSVP at ujcvp.org

BAGELS & FRAYLOX



Winter
Concert

Save the Date!

Bagels & Fraylox Klezmer Band Winter

Concert at the UJC

Sunday, January 12th, 2pm

Admission - \$10/person
light refreshments will be served

Please RSVP at: ujcvp.org/arts-ideas

Questions? Email carmela@ujcvp.org

New Security Enhancements in Place on UJCVP Campus

This month, the UJCVP has taken more steps to bolster campus security as part of a broader commitment to safeguarding our community.

“As we continue to prioritize safety for everyone who walks through our doors, we are proud to announce a series of newly completed security enhancements,” shared UJCVP CEO Eric Maurer. “These investments reflect our ongoing dedication to providing a welcoming and secure environment for our community.”

Among the new measures is a campuswide intercom system. Strategically placed intercoms in every room now enable efficient communication across our buildings and classrooms, ensuring that information can be swiftly shared in the event of an emergency.

In addition, bullet-resistant mylar was installed on windows on the campus. In the event of an impact, the mylar serves to reduce the risk of shattering glass, an essential safety feature that is particularly beneficial in a community center setting where families and children are frequently present. Vehicular bollards have been added around key entry points. These barriers provide physical protection against accidental or deliberate vehicle collisions. And the perimeter fence was extended, allowing the UJCVP to more effectively control access points while maintaining an open yet secure environment.

These updates form part of our larger, ongoing security program, which includes regular reviews and upgrades in response to the evolving needs of our community. We are grateful for the support and understanding of our community as we implement these necessary changes, and we appreciate the trust placed in us as stewards of this sacred space.

Data from Jewish Federations of North America shows that 76% of Jews feel physically safe in local Jewish organizations and spaces, which is a remarkable figure given the sharp spike in antisemitism we’ve experienced this past year.

“But that number is still not high enough,” said Eric Maurer. “Feeling safe is a prerequisite for Jewish communities to flourish, and we will continue working to ensure that everyone can feel secure when they are participating in our community.”

To learn more about the UJCVP’s Secure Community Initiative and the Live Secure matching grant program, visit ujcvp.org/security



PJ Library Hanukkah

Sunday, Dec. 15th

2-3:30pm

Join us for a special Hanukkah storytime featuring the book “The Parakeet Named Dreidel” by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

We will play Hanukkah games and enjoy a special treat!

RSVP at
ujcvp.org/pjlibrary

Community

HANUKKAH

CELEBRATIONS



18th Annual Menorah Lighting at City Center

Wed. December 25th
6:00pm
Market Stage

Celebrate the 1st night of Hanukkah with donuts, latkes and music from Bagels & Fraylox.



ujcvp.org

8th Annual Menorah Lighting at New Town

Wed. January 1st
6:00pm
Main St. Gazebo

Celebrate the 8th night of Hanukkah with donuts, and music from Bagels & Fraylox.

PUSHKE POUR OUT



Giving Tuesday

Stop by the J for a pour out for programs!
Tues. Dec. 3rd

Empty your pushkes, tzedakah boxes and piggy banks to support UJC programming!



JOIN US FOR TWO SPECIAL PUSHKE POUR OUT EVENTS!



Let's do Lunch



Community Lunch @ 12pm

Happy Hour @ 6pm

Registration Required
ujcvp.org



Hanukkah Pottery Night
Wednesday, December 4th, 6-7:30pm

Join us at the J to build, create and paint a clay Hanukkah menorah from start to finish!

The clay pieces will get fired offsite and returned to the J before the first night of Hanukkah.

Adults and families welcome!
(Kids must be ages 5+ and accompanied by an adult)

RSVP at ujcvp.org



20/30s Bonfire
Saturday, December 14th, 6-8pm

Spend a cool autumn evening around the fire at Carly's house with your 20/30 friends! Make some s'mores, play some music, hang out and enjoy each other's company.

Location address will be sent upon registration.

\$5 per person
RSVP at ujcvp.org/young-adult

PJ Our Way
Annual Donut Wars
Saturday, December 21st, 7-9pm

Join your PJOW friends as we join forces to create some one-of-a-kind donuts for Hanukkah!

Registration Required
(program is for 4th-7th graders)

RSVP at ujcvp.org/children



Jewish Family Services - Libby Batten



Hanukkah at the Heart of the UJC

The first night of Hanukkah begins at sunset on December 25, 2024. The Jewish Family Services office has received requests from families in the community in need of assistance with gifts for their children for Hanukkah.

The JFS office focuses on supporting children from infancy up to 18 years old.

JFS looks forward to the assistance of our community to bring joy and support to our families in need, ensuring they have a memorable and meaningful Hanukkah celebration.

Visit the UJCVP lobby and look for the Mitzvah Menorah. Please take a dreidel gift tag to shop for a child in need.

All gifts must be **NEW** and **UNWRAPPED**, and brought to the UJCVP (with the dreidel tag) by **December 9th**.

Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful program. I hope everyone has a meaningful Hanukkah!

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Thank you to the members of Grand Club for making our first **Empowering Seniors** event very successful! Together we learned valuable tips for saving energy and reducing our home electric bills. Our guest speaker, Ryan King from Dominion Energy, generously provided helpful information, answered questions, and gave everyone energy-saving kits to take home.



Stay tuned! Our next speaker will be announced soon, bringing more insights and resources to help us all!



Lunch & Bingo on Thursdays

Lunch for ages 60+ - \$2.50
Lunch for Passport Members - FREE!
Additional charge for bingo cards.

Bingo begins at 11am, lunch is served at 12:00pm

-- No GRAND CLUB on 12/26 --

Email Carmela:
carmela@ujcvp.org for more info or to RSVP

Sheryl Sandberg at General Assembly: I am a proud Zionist



What this moment requires is the truth, the hard, uncomfortable truth.

Bari Weiss, The Free Press

Sheryl Sandberg, founder of Lean In and former COO of Meta, said at the Jewish Federations of North America's annual General Assembly in Washington, DC that she has come to embrace her Jewish and Zionist identities since the October 7th Hamas attacks on Israel.

"I am female, I am a business leader, I am an American, and I am a Jew, and I sit on this stage as a proud Zionist and a proud Jew, in a way I wouldn't have a year and a half ago," Sandberg said.

During her conversation with friend and Jewish Federations of North America Board Chair Julie Platt, Sandberg discussed what led her to make the documentary "Screams Before Silence," which focuses on giving a voice to the women and girls who were raped, assaulted and mutilated by Hamas terrorists during the October 7th Israel attacks.

For 30 years, she said, women's groups and human rights groups took stands to ensure rape would be punished and prosecuted as a war crime. That didn't happen after October 7th, Sandberg said.

"But if in this moment, our politics make us so blind that we are denying or facing with silence rape – clear rape of victim after victim after victim that was murdered, we lose too much. And so I was trying to say exactly one thing, which is that rape is not resistance. Ever. Under any circumstances," Sandberg said.

Sandberg has since traveled the country showing the film, including on college campuses – including fraternities, including in Berkeley, where it was well received.

"There's something about young Jewish men, men on campus, speaking out for Israel, speaking out against terror, and speaking out on sexual violence, that gives me hope," Sandberg said, "And that should give all of us hope."

Sandberg took the stage after Bari Weiss, founder and editor of The Free Press and host of the podcast Honestly, spoke to the General Assembly about the new era of antisemitism since the October 7th Hamas attacks on Israel.

"The legacy press would have you believe that the hunt for Jews in Amsterdam was just a scuffle between football hooligans. That is no less a lie than suggesting that the phrase Sig Heil merely means hail victory. We need to say out loud that anti Zionism is antisemitism full stop," Weiss said.

"We need to take the phrase 'globalize the Intifada' seriously. It is not a fun rally chant. It is a call for violence against our community. What this moment requires is the truth, the hard, uncomfortable truth," Weiss said. "It means not backing down from telling it to yourself and to – others. It means holding your leaders to account when they fail to deliver, and not just following them blindly out of convenience or convention. It means realizing that good ideas and good people. They don't just win on their own – they need others to elevate them, to defend them and to promote them. If all of this, if this moment that we're in, feels deeply uncomfortable, that is because it is."

The General Assembly convenes Jewish leaders from across North America to address today's most pressing issues, celebrate Jewish heritage, and set the agenda for the year ahead.



ב"ה

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES.



Services – 10:00AM



Light kiddish – 11:30 AM



ChabadWilliamsburg.org



757-929-4999

Congregation Adath Jeshurun

401 City Center Blvd. , Newport News, VA 23606

Telephone # 757-930-0820 | Website: www.ajshul.com

Rabbi Gershon Litt, 757-559-1836



Hanukkah celebrates many different things, including the victory of the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil lasting eight days. But what it ultimately represents is HOPE and optimism. HOPE is an essential component of our survival.

In a world of many challenges, Hanukkah lifts us out of despair. The single jar of oil burned for eight days, reconsecrating the Temple. The light of our HOPE was reflected in the light of the Temple. The lights of the candles in the Menorah brightens our lives and gives us HOPE. The smiles of our children, when receiving their Hanukkah presents gives us HOPE for a bright future. HOPE is in the air.

Hanukkah is here to remind us that a great miracle happened THERE and it could happen again.
HAPPY HANUKKAH!!!

Candle Lighting Times:

Dec. 6 - 4:30pm
Dec. 13 - 4:31pm
Dec. 20 - 4:34pm
Dec. 27 - 4:38pm

Rabbi Litt's Shabbos Schedule:

Dec. 20-21, Jan. 17-18, Feb. 21-22,
Mar. 21-22

Shabbos lunch on Dec. 21st is sponsored by Bob & Meryl Kessler, and Bob & Leslie Frank in honor of Eli Tal, Mayer HarZion and Scott Wolf.



RODEF SHOLOM TEMPLE

FOUNDED IN 1913 AND A MEMBER OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

*We are: Warm, welcoming and steeped in the rich traditions of Judaism...Egalitarian and Eclectic
Living personal Jewish journeys across a spectrum of participation...Looking forward to seeing you!*



Upcoming Events:

Tuesdays at Noon - Ethics of Our Ancestors

December 20th - Congregational Dinner: "Getting Ready for Hanukkah"

See our website for more information

In-Person and Zoom Services:

Minyan: Monday & Thursday @ 7:45am

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday @ 6:00pm

Shabbat Morning Services: Saturday @ 9:30am

Contact the Temple Office for Zoom information.
Please see our website for more information.

401 City Center Blvd. Newport News, VA 23606
757-826-5894 | www.rodefsholomtemple.org | office@rodefsholomtemple.org

Rodef Sholom



FIRST SISTERHOOD PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL

HANUKKAH BOUTIQUE AND GIFT FAIR

YOUR LOCAL ARTISTS WILL OFFER DESIGNS IN
MIXED MEDIA, HARD WOOD, FABRIC ART,
GLASS AND DELICIOUS DELICACIES.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024

TABLES ARE STILL AVAILABLE
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DANILE AT
757-596-0241 OR LSPQKQNY@AOL.COM.

Temple Beth El of Williamsburg
600 Jamestown Road
Sunday Lecture Series — December 8



The Jerusalem of the North: Discovering the Jews of Vilnius, Lithuania

Once the center of Jewish learning, culture, art, and religious thought, Vilnius, Lithuania now reveals its Jewish past in haunting murals, obscure memorials, and out-of-the-way museums.



Join TBEW's Mike and Bella Blum for a multimedia exploration of Vilnius's lost Jewish past on Sunday, December 8 at 3 pm (in person or online via Zoom).

Contact office@tbewilliamsburg.org for the link.

We celebrate Jewish life all year!



Temple Beth El of Williamsburg
600 Jamestown Road

ADL Presents — The State of Hate—December 15

The State of Hate: The Journey towards Understanding and Countering the Rise of Antisemitism which will be hosted by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on December 15 at 1 pm at TBEW.

Antisemitism is a troubling issue with an extremely high resurgence in the U.S. Explore how to identify the subtle and overt ways antisemitism manifests in society. Discuss the challenges it poses on college campuses. Focus on how to approach conversations about antisemitism with the younger generation, particularly our grandchildren. Engaging them in these discussions can be crucial in raising awareness and combating hate in their circles. Refer to valuable resources and tools available at the ADL to address these challenges effectively.

This presentation will last approximately 45 minutes with a Q&A for 15 minutes.

We celebrate Jewish life all year!



Registration Required - Contact Temple Beth El

Temple Sinai

Founded 1955

11620 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, VA 23601
757-596-8352

Rabbi Severine Sokol

Reform Jewish Temple of the Virginia Peninsula

Our warm, inclusive congregation welcomes all guests, including Jews by heritage, Jews by choice, secular Jews, interfaith families, couples, singles, children, and LGBT+ members.

If you would like to attend services, contact Mary Beth in the Temple Office 757-596-8352.



Worship Services

- Saturday, Dec. 7th, 10:00 a.m. - Shabbat Service/Akers' Brit Bat & light Kiddush luncheon
- Friday, Dec. 13th, 7:30 p.m. - Kabbalat Shabbat Malachim Service & Oneg
- Friday, Dec. 20th, 7:30 p.m. - Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Oneg
- Saturday, Dec. 28th, 5:00 p.m. - Havdalah Service & Hanukkah Party

Adult Education Program

Sunday, Dec. 15th, 11:00 a.m. - Come and join Joanna Homrighausen and Fred Levy at the Temple for an informal Torah discussion and a delicious bagel nosh! Zoom option available.

Religious School

Sunday, Dec. 15th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Activity with Carmela Malkin-Kuhn & Lynne Schofield

For more information about services or Religious School, contact Mary Beth Colgan at: admin@nnsinai.hrcoxmail.com or (757) 596-8352.

Rodef Sholom Temple presents Bible People and Beyond

10:00 a.m. in the RST Sanctuary



November 3rd
Rabbi David Bockman
The Prophet Elisha



November 24th
Rabbi Mitchell Schranz
Mordecai & Esther



December 15th
Rabbi Gershon Litt
Joseph



November 10th
Dr. Vered Sakal
Pinchas



December 8th
Eric Maurer
King David



December 22nd
Rabbi David Eligberg
Ezra the Scribe

December 8th: Eric Maurer
King David

December 15th: Rabbi Gershon Litt
Joseph

December 22nd: Rabbi David Eligberg
Ezra the Scribe

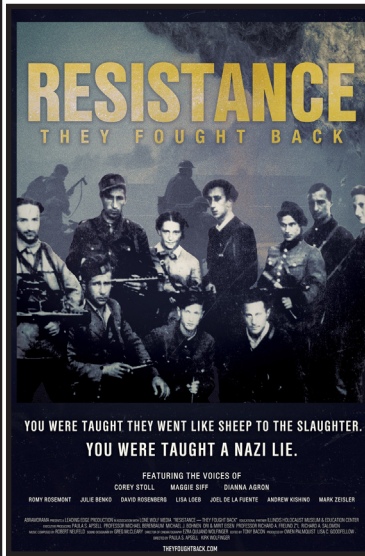
We asked six Jewish professionals who their favorite biblical person is.

Join us as we learn from them about these people from our tradition.

401 City Center Drive, Newport News www.rodefsholomtemple.org (757) 826-5894

Temple Beth El's 24th Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival

at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theater - 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg VA



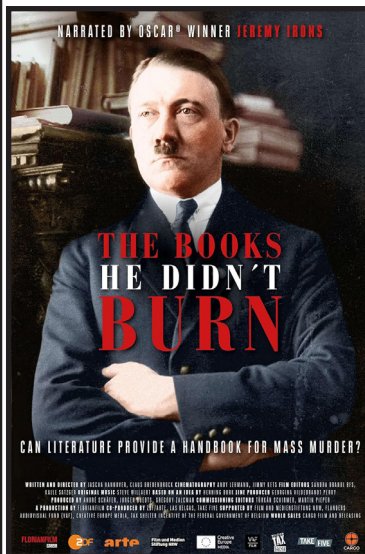
RESISTANCE: THEY FOUGHT BACK
Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 2:00pm
 2023, 1 hr 40 min, Documentary (USA)

Did the Jews go as “lambs to the slaughter”? Paula Apsell, producer of the NOVA series, made this riveting new feature describing the various ways of resistance, from armed to daily life resistance, using rare archives and the most important scholars of Holocaust research, and remaining survivors, to answer this question. This is a must-see documentary, especially for youngsters growing in today’s world where info is not always reliable. The film chronicles the Eastern European archaeological work of the late Dr. Richard A. Freund conducted on behalf of Christopher Newport University. Dr. Freund was the inaugural Bertram and Gladys Aaron Professor of Jewish Studies at Christopher Newport University from 2019-2022.



ALL ABOUT THE LEVKOVICHES
Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 2:00pm
 2024, 1 hr 25 min, Drama

Told with delightfully mordant humor and a genuine warmth, this appealing domestic story from Hungarian filmmaker Adam Breier follows a Jewish family on the winding path toward reconciliation. Tamas is an aging boxing coach in Budapest whose relationship with his son, Ivan, has frayed to the point of estrangement. After converting to Orthodox Judaism, Ivan moved to Israel, where he had a son, Ariel, whom Tamas has never met. Now, Ivan and Ariel have come back to Budapest for the funeral of Tomas’s wife, forcing father and son to face one another. Breier’s film is masterfully acted and directed, maintaining a perfectly balanced tone between comedy and pathos.



THE BOOKS HE DIDN'T BURN
Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 2:00pm
 2023, 1 hr 31 min, Documentary

A critical look at the history of Western thought by examining the remains of Adolf Hitler’s private library. The dictator and mass murderer owned 16,000 books at the end of his life, 1,200 of which are kept in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. today. Bredendbrock and Jascha Hannover’s gripping, provocative documentary narrated by Academy Award winner Jeremy Irons, follows Timothy W. Ryback, an eminent historian and expert on Hitler’s library, as he tries to make sense of the historical meaning of this collection.

All films are free. Light dessert & beverages will be provided afterwards.
 The Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival Committee greatly appreciates the support and loyalty of our audiences *Sponsored by Temple Beth El*

Israel Fellow on Campus: Turning Challenges into Opportunities



“The burdens of current college students are not fair to ask and too heavy to carry.” These words were recently spoken by Katherine Rowe, the president of William & Mary, while speaking at William & Mary Hillel’s October 7th memorial. These meaningful words echo the truth that our Jewish students have been living for the past year. Since October 7th, our Jewish students have had to endure, and be exposed to, antisemitism the likes of which most of their parents never saw. They have had to deal with lies being spread about Israel, about October 7th, about Jewish people, and Zionism. Our Jewish students are on campus to learn and to grow as Jews and as meaningful members of our community. Instead, many have had to grow up fast and deal with very adult issues. They indeed have had to carry a very heavy burden.

Perhaps, however, the experiences of the past year can be seen as an opportunity. W&M Hillel, as well as many university-based Jewish organizations around the country, have seen a massive uptick in engagement since October 7th, 2023. As of November 10th, W&M Hillel has engaged 263 Jewish students at least once and 54 students six or more times since the beginning of the fall semester. Israel education is also up with the hire of a new Israel Fellow. This new full-time position, sponsored significantly by the Jewish Agency for Israel and Hillel International, focuses on Israel education.

Yeela Mimrod is the new Israel Fellow at William & Mary Hillel. She will also be doing programming regionally, including at Christopher Newport University and other locations. Already this year, Yeela has engaged tens of students, had almost 50 “coffee meetings,” and has set up educational programs ranging from understanding the Israeli parliamentary system to “Café Ivrit,” fun Hebrew lessons.

Rabbi Gershon Litt, director of William & Mary Hillel, says that the Israel Fellow program is fundamentally changing Hillel’s ability to elevate Israel education on campus. “Yeela is fulfilling a need that is essential right now. She, and Israel Fellows around the country, are showing students that Israelis are normal people who just want to live in peace like everyone else.” Rabbi Litt says that having Yeela on board has allowed for a robust conversation about Israel to take place and allows students a safe place to ask tough questions. “Israel is a central piece of our students’ Jewish identity. We need to actively be involved in forming that identity or someone else will.”

Of course, in addition to education, the Israel Fellow also supports our students during difficult times such as during or after protests or similar events. This program is supported programmatically with generous grants from both UJCVP and the UJFT community impact grants.

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JCCY Welcomes Hanukkah!

Saturday, December 21st, 7-9pm

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U.S. Postal Service Dedicates Hanukkah Stamp

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the joyous annual holiday of Hanukkah with a new stamp in 2024. The holiday, also called the Festival of Lights, spans eight days and nights, and is celebrated by Jewish people around the world. A dedication ceremony for the stamp was held in September at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum in D.C.

“This stamp, with its festive Hanukkah candles, warm our hearts and their intimate glow rekindles the family bonds that comfort and sustain us throughout the year. It also reminds us — as Americans — that we are joined in our diversity,” said Michael Gordon, the Postal Service’s government liaison director, who served as the stamp’s dedicating official. “Starting today, this beautiful image of remembrance, light and love will travel on letters and packages to millions of households and businesses throughout America and around the world.”

Joining Gordon in dedicating the stamp were Bea Gurwitz, the museum’s executive director; Chris Wolf, the museum’s incoming board chairman; and Antonio Alcalá, who served as the stamp’s art director.

The origin story of Hanukkah stems from a struggle for religious liberty and human rights. It is a tale centered on the Maccabees, a small army of Jewish warriors, fighting for the right of all Jews to practice their religion freely. Around 167 B.C., the emperor Antiochus IV engaged in a brutal campaign to force Jews to convert to Greek polytheism. He persecuted those who continued to practice Judaism with the passing of many oppressive laws, and he also looted and desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem, which was the holiest of shrines for the Jewish people. The outnumbered Maccabees revolted, and against all odds, prevailed over the much bigger armies of the emperor.

Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for “dedication.”

Tradition relates how a miracle took place after the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem. During the rededication of the Temple, Jewish worshippers discovered that only one small jar of consecrated oil remained, enough to last just one day. They lit the Temple menorah, which miraculously burned for eight days, providing enough time to produce more oil.

“The Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum is honored to be part of the 2024 Hanukkah stamp unveiling ceremony,” said Gurwitz. “The museum tells the story of a community that is decidedly local but has a national impact, seeking to inspire all who visit to take action on behalf of their community values and this stamp ceremony fits perfectly with that mission. Thank you to the U.S. Postal Service for creating this impressive stamp.”

“Designing the 2024 Hanukkah stamp is an honor and privilege,” said Alcalá. “The imperfect ink-drawn lines of the artwork are to lend a human presence to the image. The flames are shown, but the candles themselves are not present. They’re implied, and to me, that alludes to an aspect of faith that’s both tied to this ceremony and to the larger religious experience.”

The Hanukkah pane of 20 stamps are issued as Forever stamps, which will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price. News of the Hanukkah stamps are being shared with the hashtag #HanukkahStamp.





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UJCVP Community December 2024 Calendar



Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024

3pm - Mostly Kosher
Concert at CNU

Monday, Dec. 2, 2024

5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024

Giving Tuesday
Pushke Pour Out
12pm - Community Lunch
4:30pm - Hebrew School
6pm - Community Happy Hour

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024

5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness
6pm - Hanukkah Pottery Night

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2024

11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Friday, Dec. 8, 2024

1pm - Maccabi Open House

Monday, Dec. 9, 2024

10am - Red Cross Blood Drive
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024

4:30pm - Hebrew School

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024

5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024

11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024

6pm - 20/30s Bonfire

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024

2pm - NextGen Hanukkah
2pm - PJ Library Hanukkah

Monday, Dec. 16, 2023

5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024

4:30pm - Hebrew School

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024

10am - Red Cross Blood Drive
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness
7pm - UJC General
Board Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024

10am - Kibbitz & Create
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024

7pm - JCCY Welcomes
Hanukkah
7pm - PJOW Donut Wars

Monday, Dec. 23, 2024

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
6pm - Hanukkah at City Center

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 27, 2024

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Monday, Dec. 30, 2024

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
6pm - Hanukkah at New Town