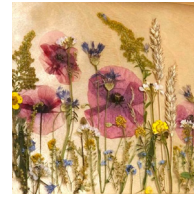




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Jewish Community News



News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

March/April 2025/5785



HASHAYARA
A Musical Celebration
of Israel's Spirit

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Museum
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**THIS WAY TO AN
UNFORGETTABLE
SUMMER**

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Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Program

with guest speaker

Michael Ashe

Wednesday, April 23rd

7:00pm at the UJC

More information at:

ujcvp.org

2025 Annual Campaign

In honor of Joan & Steve Marks
Robbie & Roger Marks

Thank you to Eric Maurer for his
participation in the Bible People
& Beyond lecture series
Rodef Sholom Temple

Bernice Gordon Fund of Rodef Sholom

In honor of Barbara
Rosenbaum's birthday
Howard Smith

Eric & Jack Luckman Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Frank Cohen's
retirement
Lori & Jeff Luckman

In memory of Jerry Godwin
Lori & Jeff Luckman

In memory of Cheryl Luckman
Simmons

Beth & Jack Arager
Wendy & Jonathan Eisner
Joanne & Richard Gordon
Melissa & Dave Kashy
Martha & Tsvi Katz-Hyman
Carmela Malkin Kuhn
Lori & Jeff Luckman
Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum
Bonnie & Jeff Spigel

In memory of Sue Sway
Lori & Jeff Luckman

Marc Minkoff Sports Scholarship Fund

In memory of Marc Minkoff
Rebecca & Arthur Reilly

Leroy M. Spigel Early Childhood Education Fund

In memory of Alene Tronfeld
Katz
Joy & Larry Spigel

UJC Preschool Fund

In honor of Jim Batterson
Jackie Batterson

In honor of Reese Vogel's 3rd
birthday
Justine & Todd Tice

In memory of Evelyn Goodman
Enid & Nathan Sharf

In memory of Linda Molin
Carmela Malkin Kuhn

In memory of Anne Zepkin
Enid & Nathan Sharf

UJC Youth Fund

In memory of Steven Goldstein
Jackie & Ed Cohen

In memory of Harold Familant
Jackie & Ed Cohen

President's Message - Steve Marks



Purim is a joyous holiday that celebrates the saving of the Jews from a threatened massacre in ancient Persia.

At Purim, we recall the story of Haman, an advisor to the King of Persia. Mordechai, a Jewish man, refuses to bow down to him since Jews bow only to God. Haman obtains the king's permission to kill Mordechai and all the Jews of Shushan. The date to kill the Jews is to be determined by casting lots, which is called "purim."

Esther is the king's new queen who has hidden her Jewish identity from him. At the urging of Mordechai, she reveals herself as a Jew and begs the king to save her people. Not only is this request granted, but the king also issues an edict allowing the Jews to defend themselves. Haman is hanged on the gallows that he prepared for Mordechai.

On the festival of Purim (also known as the Feast of Lots), we commemorate this miracle by reading the Megillah, the book of Esther; feasting; giving gifts to friends and the poor; dressing in costumes; and spinning groggers. We eat triangular shaped cookies, called hamantaschen, as a reference to Haman's hat or pockets.

Purim reminds us that when we come together, we can overcome any challenge—whether it's fighting against antisemitism, discrimination, or inequality. At the UJC, we strive to create a community where everyone, regardless of background, is seen, heard and valued. We are committed to creating spaces of belonging and working toward a more just and compassionate world for all. Just as the story of Purim encourages us to act with courage and kindness, so too does our mission call us to act in service of others, spreading light where there is darkness and hope where there is despair.



May this Purim be a time of joy, reflection, and renewed commitment to our vital mission.

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The UJC will be closed on Monday, April 14th, in observance of Passover.



Campaign Corner - Jessi Malkin

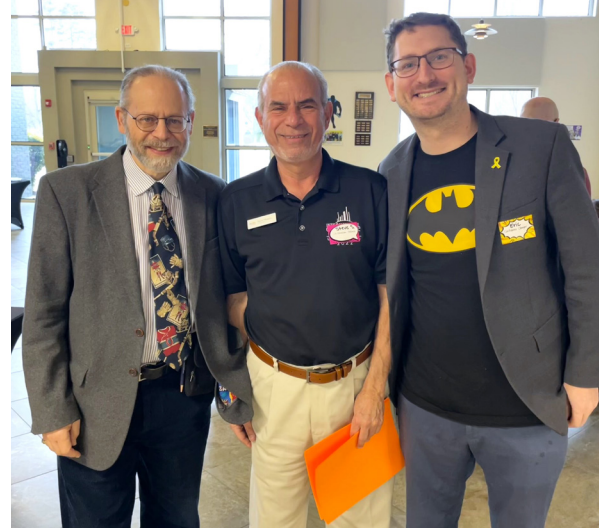


I want to thank each and every one of our nearly 50 heroic volunteers who gave up their Sunday morning to make calls and send emails and text messages on February 2. An even greater thank you to our epic supporters who answered those calls, text messages and emails and made their pledge on Super Sunday 2025. It is more than just a call-a-thon. Super Sunday is a tradition; it's a day to share our mission, our joys and our warmth with others in the community and beyond. Friendships are formed

over this annual day of giving. I cannot thank you all enough for your gifts and support, which allow the UJC to be there for all of you now and well into the future!

If we missed you on Super Sunday, it's not too late to be a UJC superhero. You can still make a difference. Visit our website to make your 2025 Annual Campaign pledge today: www.ujcvp.org/annual-campaign

With infinite appreciation,
Jessi



A Tree of Life Documentary Inspires Conversations



The Kimball Theater hosted a poignant screening of the HBO Original documentary “A Tree of Life” on February 16th, sponsored by the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula and the Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival.

The documentary, which chronicles the 2018 mass shooting at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue and its impact on the community, drew a crowd for both the screening and subsequent panel discussion. Directed by Trish Adlesic, the documentary weaves together survivors’ testimonies with the broader story of how the Pittsburgh community—Jewish and non-Jewish alike—came together in the wake of the tragedy that claimed 11 lives.

In a powerful moment of connection, Carol Black, a survivor of the shooting, shared her firsthand experience with the audience. She was joined on the panel by Brad Orsini, Senior National Security Advisor for the Secure Community Network (SCN); Rabbi David Katz from Temple Beth El; and Eric Maurer, CEO of the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula.

The panel discussion that followed the screening focused on community security, interfaith dialogue, and the ongoing work to combat antisemitism. Orsini shared insights about current security measures and



best practices being implemented across Jewish communities nationwide.

“Like the Pittsburgh Jewish community, we are fortunate to have the Secure Community Network, training and advising us on all things to keep us safe. This security expertise comes to each congregation and organization because of community support to the UJC Annual Campaign. We thank SCN and the Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film festival for their partnership in this event,” said Jessi Malkin, Director of Campaign and Community Impact at the UJC.

“Many American Jews now live with a kind of awareness and fear that we didn’t live with before. As you might imagine, we are concerned that the same thing might happen to us; the possibility that our religious and communal home might be targeted just as Tree Of Life was is always lurking just below the surface for me, although I’ve sadly become accustomed to that concern,” said Rabbi David Katz.

One local resident who attended the screening noted the film’s particular relevance. “In today’s climate of increasing antisemitism, this documentary serves as both a warning and a call to action,” she said. “It shows us how crucial it is to stand together against hate.”



For those who missed the screening, the documentary is available for streaming on HBO Max.

Those moved by the screening, or who missed the event but wish to support ongoing security efforts in the Jewish community, can make a contribution by visiting www.ujcvp.org/annual-campaign.

These donations support vital security measures and training programs that help keep our local Jewish community safe and protected.

Education **Corner** - Carmela Malkin Kuhn



Imagine walking through the JCC gymnasium and finding our incredibly busy maintenance man, John Donnell, diligently working on the beautification and functionality of our campus, both inside and out. Certainly, we don't have to imagine it; all you would need to do is take a peek into our day-to-day operations. However, if you blink, you may miss a rare glimpse into the heart and soul of this man.

Let's take that same walk through the gymnasium, but this time witnessing a precious moment. Amid an instance of chaos affecting our building, we found our gentle giant sitting on the gym floor next to a pre-k child, reading a story. A selfless and heartwarming effort to bring calm to what was, for just a moment, disorder. No words necessary just take a look.

Summer **Camp Chaverim** - Naioki Wood



There are many ingredients to a successful summer: campers, spirit, facilities, community, traditions.

The list goes on! But for us, one of the key ingredients that makes Camp Chaverim stand out from the rest are the caring individuals on our summer team.

Every year, our team grows as camp grows. With friends of friends hearing about "how much fun" it was to spend the summer working at the UJCVP.

Currently we have 16 young leaders eagerly waiting for summer to start, to share their joy with others, and to be changed themselves. As we look at our counselor roster, we realized just how many of our 2025 summer team were once young campers learning how to play gaga. Over the last 15 years, we have seen campers turn into counselors and counselors into community-impacting professionals. We truly believe magic is happening here at Camp Chaverim.

SARFAN CENTER 5K



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Join us for our 39th 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
ujcvp.org/sarfan-center-5k

PURIM CARNIVAL
SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH
12:00-3:00PM

**COME TO THE J
IN COSTUME AND
ENJOY**

BOUNCE HOUSES
AMUSEMENTS
GAMES
PRIZES
LUNCH &
HAMENTASCHEN
(FOR SALE)

**SCAN HERE
TO RSVP**

OR VISIT UJCVP.ORG

happy
PURIM

The Sarfan Center will be closed Monday, April 7th through Monday, April 14th, for Passover and Spring Break. School will resume on Tuesday, April 15th.



How two Virginia Jewish communities mobilized overnight to aid a water crisis in Richmond

It was minutes before the end of the business day on Jan. 8 when the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula (UJCVP) received a dire call from colleagues at the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond (JCFR).

Greater Richmond was on day three of a water shortage caused by a malfunction of the city's reservoir system during the first winter storm of 2025. In the days after, hundreds of thousands of residents had their water cut off with surrounding counties like Henrico, Hanover and Goochland also feeling the effects.

Richmond had been without drinkable water for days. While repairs were making progress at the water treatment facilities, they were still days away from being able to guarantee safe water again. To make matters worse, another winter storm was on the horizon.

"When JCFR shared that they needed as much as we could get by the very next day, I knew we had a big project on our hands," said UJCVP CEO Eric Maurer. "Despite not knowing exactly how we were going to pull it off, I knew that our community would rise to the occasion. We have seen it time and again; when there is a need, we step up."



UJCVP CEO Eric Maurer and UJCVP Controller Angela Morris traveled to Richmond with a truck full of water.

Two communities divvied up responsibility with the UJCVP committing to organize water collection and transportation, while the JCFR would create a plan to distribute to the Jewish community and beyond. The goal was to prioritize at-risk populations, including the elderly, homebound, and both Jewish and non-Jewish families and organizations, especially



Steve Marks and Quentin Kidd drop off cases of water at the UJCVP Campus in Newport News, Va., January 2025

in the hardest-hit east end.

Within the hour, mobilization was already underway. A call went out to the Virginia Peninsula community asking everyone to go to stores, purchase water and bring it to the UJCVP campus. The UJC also set up an online donation system for those who couldn't buy water themselves but wanted to contribute.

"It was heartwarming to see people come together, and even more so when I went out to buy water myself," said Maurer. "I found the shelves close to empty; many people from Richmond had already made the journey to our area in search of water. It was clear this was a larger issue than we had realized, but we were determined to do what we could."

The UJCVP reached out to corporate stores to try and buy water in bulk, but the response was largely unfruitful. Then, a call came at 10 p.m. from a store supervisor who had been inspired by the initiative and wanted to help. She was able to secure two pallets of water.

By the early morning hours of Thursday, the UJCVP campus became a hub for water collection. People came together—some brought water, others donated money to purchase it, and volunteers drove from different areas to help. Interfaith partners also joined the effort.

"One person dropped off just a single case of water and apologized for not being able to do more," said Maurer. "I showed her the huge pile we had already collected and said, 'Look at how one case at a time

adds up.' In that moment, I was reminded of the immense power of community—when we all do our part, even in small ways, we can accomplish something truly remarkable.”



Molly Link and Bogie Edouard load water into vehicles to transport to Richmond

As the day went on, volunteer drivers arrived with their own vehicles and rented flatbed trucks. They loaded up and began organizing caravans to transport the water to Richmond, more than an hour’s drive away. As the caravans arrived in Richmond, a team of volunteers was waiting to start the distribution process.



“Within hours, we had been in touch with Richmond and Henrico Emergency Management, our interfaith partners and each of our community agencies to determine the needs,” said JCFR CEO Daniel Staffenberg. “Twelve hours later, thousands of gallons and bottles of water were being distributed.” Water was distributed to the Jewish Family Services, RTA-Richmond Hebrew Day School, Congregation Beth Ahabah, the Weinstein JCC, Temple Beth El, Keneseth Beth Israel, Jewish life at VCU, RVA Community Fridges and Hillel at Virginia Commonwealth University.

But the distribution didn’t stop with the Jewish community. Richmond and Henrico County’s broader community needed support, too. A 26-foot U-Haul was packed front to back with water—so much water that the wheels could not have taken another pound of weight. With help from city officials, eight pallets of water were distributed to Richmond and Henrico County’s emergency services. The journey was slow and steady, but it was worth every minute. When the truck arrived, it was unloaded directly into ambulances and city vehicles. In Henrico, the water was added to the distribution pile, where lines of cars had gathered to receive the donations.

“This week, I have been humbled by so many organizations that stepped up when we were dealing with the Richmond water crisis,” said John Vithoulkis, Henrico County manager. “As we were running low on water on that last day, the Jewish Federation called and offered bottled water and that helped us get to the finish line with water distribution efforts. I will never forget this act of kindness.”

“Overnight, our two communities had collected and distributed thousands of gallons of water to support Richmond in their time of need,” noted Staffenberg. “We often talk about the power of our Federation system. This was one of those moments where the best of us shone through.”



Education Corner - Christopher Newport University



CNU LifeLong Learning Program Presents: An Introduction to Judaism with instructor Dr. Vered Sakal
Wednesdays beginning March 12th, 9-10:15am

This 5-week course will provide a general introduction to Judaism in its many ancient and modern expressions. Aiming to address the questions of “what do Jews believe?” and “what do Jews do?” through close analysis of different forms of Judaism, students will come out of this class with a better understanding of Jewish values and core beliefs.

We will begin our exploration by examining the emergence of Judaism from the world of the Hebrew Bible.

Moving on to rabbinical literature, we will get acquainted with the Mishna and the Talmud, and learn how the destruction of the second temple generated new forms of Jewish beliefs and practices.

Jumping in time and space, we will visit medieval Andalusia and discuss the tight connection between Jews and Muslims in Spain.

The last two classes will review Jewish mysticism (kabbalah) and Jewish responses to modernity.

For more information or to sign up, please visit the CNU Lifelong Learning website.

BROKEN VESSELS, RESTORED SOULS: Ceramics in Jewish Mysticism and Art

Presented in collaboration with CNU's Department of Philosophy and Religion and sponsored by the Bertram and Gladys Aaron Endowed Professorship in Jewish Studies.

A Public Lecture by
Joanna Homrighausen, Ph.D.

Sunday, March 30, 2025 | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center

Reception begins at 12:30 p.m.

Lecture begins at 1:30 p.m.



In Judaism's mystical traditions, the myth of the 'breaking of the vessels' imagines vessels of divine essence shattered at creation, left for humans to find and repair the world. Join CNU's Jewish Studies program for a talk exploring Jewish mysticism and the art inspired by it. This lecture will begin with Jewish art from past centuries that engages mystical themes, from ritual implements to calligraphed manuscripts, then turn to more recent Jewish artists who have played with Jewish mystical texts, themes, and symbols.

Joanna Homrighausen (PhD, Religion, Duke University) teaches in Judaic Studies at William & Mary, and writes and teaches on sacred words, sacred texts, and how individuals and communities reproduce, ritualize, and revere them through lettering arts and scribal crafts.

This event is free and open to the public.

A PLP Discovery Event



Honors Approved

March 23rd
Sasha Nasirova
Sarfan Center Perakhim
Infant lead teacher

March 26th
Selena Armstrong
Sarfan Center Pre-K
assistant teacher

March 27th
Sara Traster
UJC Marketing Director,
Program Team

March 30th
Anabel Hernandez
Sarfan Center Wobblers
assistant teacher

April 1st
Ursula Pulley
Sarfan Center Nitzanim
2-year-olds teacher

April 25
Evelyn Mason
UJC Chef/Caterer

April 26th
Lizz Wright
Sarfan Center Tzi-
porim 2-year-olds
assistant teacher

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NEED COLLEGE* \$\$?

JELF PROVIDES 0% INTEREST LOANS

Apply

BY APRIL 30!

jelf
Jewish Educational Loan Fund
jelf.org

*COLLEGE INCLUDES QUALIFYING UNDERGRADS, GRAD STUDENTS & VOCATIONAL / TECHNICAL STUDENTS

SPRING INTO ACTION: GIVE BLOOD

American Red Cross

Red Cross Blood Drives at the UJC

Wed. Mar. 12th, 10am-2pm
Wed. Apr. 30th, 10am-2pm

One pint of blood can save up to three lives!

Schedule an appointment at ujcvp.org

Questions? Email Sara Traster
straster@ujcvp.org

Israeli Band 'Hashayara Project' to Celebrate Israel's Independence Day in Newport News



with fresh, contemporary pieces, inviting audiences to experience Israel in all its multifaceted glory.

The concert will also reflect the band's dedication to community-building through music. The ensemble members are all accomplished musicians and educators from Dror Israel, an organization that works year-round to empower youth across the country. Their commitment to fostering an inclusive, united Israeli society through music is at the heart of the Hashayara Project.

In a celebration of Israel's 77-year journey, the Hashayara Project, a vibrant ensemble of Israeli musicians from the Galilee, will bring the spirit of Israel's Independence Day to the United States this spring. On April 27, 2025, the band will perform an unforgettable concert at the Gaines Theatre at Christopher Newport University.

Healing Through Music

In the wake of the tragic events of October 2023, Hashayara's music has taken on new meaning. As Israel continues to heal from the challenges of war, their performances have become a symbol of unity and hope, reaching communities from the Galilee to the Negev. This upcoming concert marks a continuation of their mission to spread that message of healing and resilience, bringing people together through the universal language of music.

More than just a concert, Hashayara's performance is designed to create an intimate space for connection and shared experience. Audiences will be taken on a musical journey that weaves together beloved Israeli songs in both Hebrew and English, celebrating the nation's pioneering dreams, achievements, and challenges throughout its history. With a mix of traditional classics and contemporary Israeli hits, the concert offers a powerful connection between Israel's past and present.

An Event to Remember

The event is sponsored by the UJCVP and will take place at Christopher Newport University's Gaines Theatre.

"The performance is more than entertainment; it's an emotional and cultural journey," said Carmela Malkin



Kuhn, Director of Education at the UJCVP. "Through their music and storytelling, we aim to deepen the bonds between Israel and our community, creating a shared space of hope, unity, and celebration."

Tickets for the performance are now available through the UJCVP. Community members are encouraged to attend to share in this special celebration of Israel's 77th anniversary. The event promises not only to entertain but to build bridges between Israel and the Jewish diaspora, strengthening ties and creating lasting memories for all who attend. The concert is family-friendly.

Celebrating Israel's Story through Music
Since its founding in 1948, Israel has been defined by resilience, innovation, and a diverse cultural landscape. Hashayara's performance brings these elements to life through songs that capture Israel's spirit — from the dream of the pioneers to the achievements of today. The band's repertoire blends nostalgic favorites

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit UJCVP.org.



PEARL SOCIETY *Birthday* **BASH**



March 26th | 5:30pm

The UJC Pearl Society Women's Giving Circle happily invites you to its 2025 Social Action Party!

Cake & Ice Cream | Games | Prizes

Then join us as we assemble Birthday Kits for the Market at Thrive Peninsula.

Admission:

Please bring items for the Birthday Kits: cake mix, icing, candles, party plates

For a full list of items please visit ujcvp.org/pearl-birthday-bash or scan the code!



Questions?
Email: straster@ujcvp.org

RSVP here!



THIS WAY TO AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER

There's a perfect camp for every Jewish camper. Find yours today at ONEHAPPYCAMPER.ORG.

Plus, you can get **UP TO \$1000 OFF** your camper's first summer.



For more information about overnight camps and camp scholarships, please contact
Jessi Malkin

jmalkin@ujcvp.org
757-930-1422



KRAV MAGA
DEFENSE ACADEMIES

REGISTRATION
REQUIRED!
UJCV.P.ORG



KRAV MAGA INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH
2-3:30PM**

Krav Maga
(KRAHV mə-GAH; Hebrew: קרב מגע)
is an Israeli self-defence system.

Developed for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), it uses techniques derived from aikido, boxing, judo, karate and wrestling. It is known for its focus on real-world situations.

Join us at the J for an introductory class with a certified Krav Maga instructor from Krav Maga Hampton Roads.

MUST BE age 13+ to participate.
No experience necessary.
\$30 per person



Youth Creation Celebration and Petting Zoo

For ages 4+ (under 4 must be accompanied by an adult)

Join us: Sunday, April 6th, 2-3:30pm

For more info and to RSVP, please visit ujcvp.org



NextGen
United Jewish Community
Virginia Peninsula

NextGen Passover for adults in their 20s/30s/40s

SUNDAY
27 TH
APRIL

HASHAYARA: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL



More Than Just a Concert...
Celebrating Israel's spirit
through music & storytelling



**Kids'
Workshop**
10am

**Joint
Sunday
School at
the UJC**

For grades
K & up

**Family
Concert**
3pm

**Gaines
Performing
Arts Theatre
at CNU**

\$10/person

Free for ages
15 & younger

For Ticket Information:
ujcvp.org



Jewish Advocacy Day Draws Hundreds to Richmond to Support Community Issues



swastika means to the Jewish community. The bill passed both the House and the Senate.

The UJCVP also advocated for legislation that would support campus safety at our Commonwealth universities, including HB2529 and HB2208/SB1284. Vigorous, often violent, anti-Israel protests—including encampments—arose on more than 150 North American campuses this past spring to pressure college administrators to promote boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against Israel and Israelis. These campuses Jewish students have been harassed, threatened, blocked from accessing their classrooms, and even physically assaulted, which represent a clear violation of their civil rights.

On a day dedicated to strengthening the Jewish community’s voice in the Commonwealth, dozens of leaders from the United Jewish Community of Virginia Peninsula (UJCVP) gathered with hundreds of Jewish advocates from throughout the state at the General Assembly in Richmond to champion critical issues affecting the community. Jewish Advocacy Day saw an overwhelming turnout as leaders and volunteers flooded the halls of the General Assembly, meeting with elected officials to discuss legislative priorities that support the Jewish community’s safety, security and rights.

“We were disappointed that the campus legislation failed to pass,” shared one participant. “Every university must do more to ensure the safety of their Jewish students. Jewish students deserve to have their civil rights maintained and protected on campus.”

Dozens of meetings were held with lawmakers, urging them to pass several key bills designed to combat hate and discrimination while bolstering security for Jewish individuals and institutions throughout the state.

Jewish Advocacy Day was a powerful reminder of the need for strong legislation to address ongoing threats and ensure that Jewish communities remain safe, supported and heard in Virginia.

Among the key pieces of legislation advocated for during the day was HB2783, which would strengthen the penalty for hate crimes involving swastikas. This bill aims to provide an additional tool for law enforcement to fight antisemitism. It follows the

Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day is organized through the four Jewish Federations of Virginia, of which the UJCVP is one. Each Jewish Federation is the community planning, leadership and outreach arm of its Jewish community, which develops human and financial resources to meet the evolving and vital issues of our local, statewide, national and international communities.



same path as cross burning or placing a noose in a place to intimidate African Americans. Making it a class 6

felony to place a swastika on property gives it additional weight so the police departments are not wasting time with a misdemeanor charge, especially considering the symbol of hate the





ב"ה

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES.



Services – 10:00AM



Light kiddish – 11:30 AM



ChabadWilliamsburg.org



757-929-4999



Congregation
Emet V'Or

Truth and Light in the Reform Tradition

Congregation Emet V'Or (CEVO) strives to be a supportive community and a meaningful place for Jewish people, their families and those who desire to learn about the Jewish faith. At CEVO we worship G-d in accordance with the faith of Judaism.

Weekly Shabbat Services
7:00 PM-8:30 PM

March 7 April 4
March 14 April 11
March 21 April 18
March 28 April 5

In-Person & Virtual

Religious School
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

March 9th
March 23rd
April 6th – Passover Seder
for all ages
April 20th

Events

March 21st – Family Dinner
before Shabbat services
March 22nd - PORT

101 Production Drive
Suite 101
Yorktown, VA 23693

(757) 930-3737
office.cevo@gmail.com

CEVO is a member of
The URJ

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



Purim and Passover both represent the Jewish response to oppression.

At Passover, we celebrate our salvation and emergence from bondage. We overcame our enemies. As we escaped, Pharaoh's army pursued us and with Hashem's intervention, that army was drowned. Passover marks the liberation of the Jews from the Egyptian oppression.

Purim tells the story of our ancestors prevailing over their enemies. Haman plotted to kill all of the Jews. When Mordechai refused to bow down to him, Haman's evil plot failed and he was executed. Purim is a holiday of survival and redemption.

We learn from the lessons of Purim and Passover that despite adversity, Jews have risen above these challenges and thrived. We have overcome the efforts of our enemies to oppress us and have outlasted our oppressors.

Forms for selling Chometz can be found on our web site: ajshul.com



Candle Lighting Times:

Mar. 7 - 5:47pm	Mar. 14 - 6:54pm
Mar. 21 - 7:00pm	Mar. 28 - 7:06pm
Apr. 4 - 7:12pm	Apr. 11 - 7:19pm
Apr. 12 - 8:17pm (Yom Tov)	
Apr. 13 - 8:18pm (Yom Tov)	
Apr. 18 - 7:25pm (Yom Tov/Shabbos)	
Apr. 19 - 8:24pm (Yom Tov)	
Apr. 25 - 7:31pm	

Rabbi Litt's Shabbos Schedule:

Mar. 21-22, Apr. 25-26, May 23-24, June 20-21

Join us for a sponsored Kiddush lunch each month for services with Rabbi Litt.

March 22 kiddush lunch is sponsored by Robert Shapiro & Leslie Frank in honor of their 80th birthdays.

April 26 kiddush lunch is sponsored by Bob & Meryl Kessler in honor of their children and grandchildren.

ADATH JESHURUN
PRESENTS

BLOCKBUSTER TORAH

SHOWING AT

UJCV, 401 City Center Blvd
Newport News, VA

All classes will be at 6:30 PM

Presented by:
Rabbi Gershon Litt

March 5th	April 2nd	May 7th
-----------	-----------	---------

Gladiator 2

Barbie

Inside Out 2

Learn about Jewish philosophy through the movies discussing themes and lessons straight out of the Torah.

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!

Once there was a

WICKED WICKED WICKED man

And the times they are a changin'

COMING TO RST PURIM 5785
THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 13TH

SHUSHAN PALACE INVITES YOU TO A FAUX TRAF SHABBAT DINNER ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH

ADON OLAM FITS ALMOST ANY MELODY. CHOOSE THE WORST, MOST
INAPPROPRIATE TUNE, RECORD IT, AND SUBMIT IT TO
OFFICE@RODEFSHOLOMTEMPLE.ORG



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



JOIN US FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS AT TEMPLE BETH EL WILLIAMSBURG!

MARCH

13th

TBE's Purim Celebration ✨

Plan to wear a costume, and join us to blot out the name of the evil one! Spiels to be performed by our TBE students and other adults. Bring your best hamantaschen and groggers for family-friendly racous fun at 7pm.



APRIL

13th

Community Seder ✨

Join us on the second night of Passover for the TBE community Seder. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the Seder that will be contributed to the William & Mary Food Pantry for students and staff who are food-insecure. A James City County police office will be on-site to provide security.



Members: \$22.50
Non-members: \$45
Children under 12: \$15
No one will be turned away for financial reasons.

Temple Sinai

Founded 1955

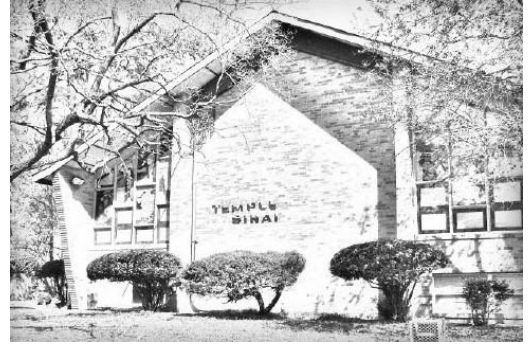
11620 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, VA 23601
757-596-8352

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

- Friday, Mar. 3rd, 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Esther presentation by Dr. Joanna Homrighausen
- Saturday, Mar. 15th, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Purim Service with Jena Chenkin & the Religious School followed by light Kiddush luncheon
- Friday, Mar. 21st, 5:00 p.m. – Abridged Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Dinner & Movie

- Saturday, Mar. 29th, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service & presentation on Moses by Mariner’s Museum followed by light Kiddush luncheon
- Friday, Apr 5th, 5:00 p.m. Abridged Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Dinner & Movie
- Saturday, Apr. 12th, 5:00 p.m. – Communal Passover Seder
- Saturday, Mar. 19th, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Malachim Service
- Saturday, Mar. 26th, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service of Healing

Adult Education Program

Sunday, Mar. 9th & Apr. 20th, 11:00 a.m. - Come and join Joanna Homrighausen at the Temple for an informal Torah discussion and a delicious bagel nosh! Zoom option available.

Kibbitz & Create

Thursday, March 27th

Thursday, April 24th

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

Questions? Email Jessi Malkin: jmalkin@ujcvp.org



GRAND CLUB



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 4/10--

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

Jewish Family Services - Libby Batten



Help Bring Joy This Passover

Passover is a time of reflection, renewal, and cherished traditions - and special foods make the celebration complete. Jewish Family Services is inviting our community to help provide traditional Passover items for families in need, are on a limited budget, or those who are home-bound, to let them know we are thinking about them during the holiday.

How you can make a difference:

Donate Traditional Foods: Your contributions of essential Passover foods can help ensure every family can celebrate. JFS is accepting drop-offs of the following items at the UJCVP.

- Matzah (Regular or Egg)
- Gefilte Fish
- Matzo ball soup mix
- Macaroons
- Candied Fruit Slices



Grocery Gift Cards: These are also gratefully received as they help families purchase perishable items as well as other items they may need.

Please bring food items and/or gift cards to the UJVCV prior to April 2nd.

Volunteer Your Time: A friendly visit and delivery of items is warmly appreciated - it's a simple way to brighten someone's day!

Pickup Details:

If you would like to help deliver one or more bags, please contact Libby Batten (lbatten@ujcvp.org) with your preferred local area and availability. Passover gift bags will be ready for volunteers to pick up at the UJCVP **April 7th through April 10th.**

Thank you for your continued support! Together, we can ensure that every family experiences the warmth and tradition of Passover.



If you or someone you know is struggling to celebrate Passover this year, or you have questions, please reach out to Libby Batten, Jewish Family Service Director: 757-223-5635, lbatten@ujcvp.org or Martha Vogel, UJC Office Manager: 757-930-1422, mvogel@ujcvp.org

Deliveries are Newport News, Hampton, Williamsburg and Yorktown.

Good Deeds Day is an annual international day of community service started in 2007 as an initiative of the Israel-based nonprofit organization Ruach Tova. Its mission is to unite people from around the world in doing good deeds for others and the planet.



Join us! **SUNDAY, APRIL 6th, 10am-12pm**



@ the **Mariners' Museum** for a shoreline clean-up service project.

Afterward, all clean-up volunteers will be given free admission to explore the museum!

RSVP to VOLUNTEER: ujcvp.org



Spring Craft Night



Come to the J for a special spring craft!
Bring your friends and join instructor
Julia Downer to learn how to make your
own resin pressed flower tray.

Tues. April 22nd - 6pm

Passport Members - Free
Community Members - \$15/person

RSVP at ujcvp.org/arts-ideas
Questions?

Email Naioki Wood: nwood@ujcvp.org



WILD ART WORKSHOP

Join the fun after school for a Wild Art Workshop!

We will splatter and sparkle for this 3-week art series with instructor (and NNPS art teacher), Abby Parrish. Each week kids will explore creative chaos fun and make some messy masterpieces!

Wednesdays:

April 30, May 7, May 14 - 5-6pm

To participate, kids must be in Pre-K or older.

RSVP AT [UJCVP.ORG/CHILDREN](https://www.ujcvp.org/children)

Questions? Email Sara Traster:
straster@ujcvp.org



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& CREMATORY**

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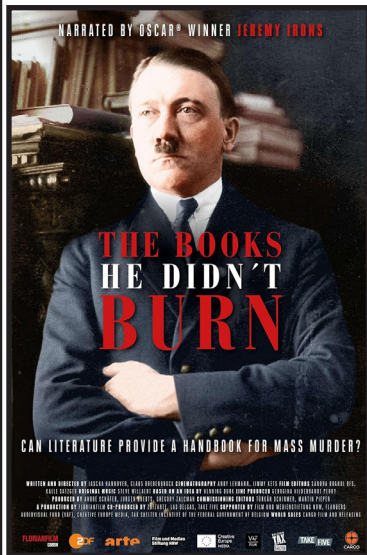
Temple Beth El's 24th Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival

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



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

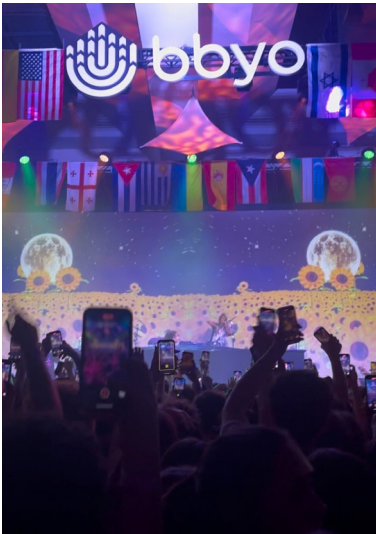
A critical look at the history of Western thought by examining the remains of Adolf Hitler's private library. The dictator and mass murderer owned 16,000 books at the end of his life, 1,200 of which are kept in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. today. Bredendrock and Jascha Hannover's gripping, 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 afterward.
 The Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival Committee greatly appreciates the support and loyalty of our audiences. Sponsored by Temple Beth El

**THE UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITY
 WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS
 AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THEIR BAR MITZVAHS**

FRED LEVY SAM JACOBI

BBYO International Convention 2025 Brings Together Jewish Youth from Around the World



This February, thousands of Jewish teens gathered in Denver, Colo. for BBYO's International Convention (IC) 2025, a transformative event that combined leadership development, cultural celebration, and memorable entertainment experiences.

The convention, which has become one of the largest Jewish youth gatherings globally, offered participants opportunities to connect with peers from different countries while exploring their shared heritage. For many attendees, like Kamea Henderson, the experience of being surrounded by other Jewish youth proved particularly meaningful.

"I've never been someplace where everyone is Jewish and that was a cool experience to be surrounded by people where everyone has that in common and was proud of it," Henderson reflected. "I went not really knowing anyone or anything, but coming back I have learned a lot and made friends from all around the world who I am so excited to see next year!"



The convention featured an impressive lineup of speakers who shared their insights and experiences with

the young attendees. Notable presenters included Samantha Harris, Paralympic athletes Tara and Hunter Davis-Woodhall, and Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, the Chief Rabbi of Uganda, among others. These diverse voices offered unique perspectives on leadership, resilience, and the global Jewish experience.

Entertainment played a significant role in the convention's programming, with performances by

several prominent artists. The musical lineup included pop singer Andy Grammer, Israeli artist Eden Golan, rapper Swae Lee, and electronic dance music duo Galantis, providing attendees with high-energy performances that enhanced the celebratory atmosphere.

Beyond the keynote speeches and concerts, the convention offered workshops and activities designed to help participants explore different Jewish traditions and practices. "I got to try and learn new things about how different people celebrate," Henderson noted, highlighting the educational value of the gathering.

The 2025 convention continued BBYO's tradition of fostering connections among Jewish youth while providing them with tools for leadership and community engagement.

As evidenced by the enthusiastic response from attendees like Henderson, who called it "a life changing experience," the event succeeded in creating meaningful connections and memories for the next generation of Jewish leaders.

BBYO's International Convention serves as a testament to the organization's ongoing mission to provide Jewish teens with opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and cultural connection in an engaging and contemporary context.



Friends since their preschool days at the Sarfan Center, Kamea Henderson and Erin Meyers reconnect with each other at BBYO IC.

Passover Recipes from Around the World



On the Jewish calendar, spring arrives with a rush of excitement for Passover — particularly for those of us who love to cook. We spend the weeks before picking out Passover recipes and inviting friends and families to our Seders.

More so than with any other Jewish holiday, we tell stories through food on Passover. Seder plate classics like sweet charoset, bitter maror and fresh karpas serve as guideposts as we retell the story of the Exodus from ancient Egypt and celebrate our freedom.

Taking care to avoid chametz or leavening, Jewish communities across the Diaspora have developed signature Passover dishes.

ROMAN-STYLE ARTICHOKE (ROME, ITALY)



Roman fried artichokes show up on all occasions, big and small, from Hanukkah to Passover, or even just as a snack when feeding a group of friends or loved ones. Made

from two of the region's most beloved ingredients, artichokes and olive oil, it's no surprise that this simple dish is a favorite of many.

Passover is often called "Chag Ha-Aviv", or the Spring Holiday, making artichokes the perfect way to celebrate.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lemons, juiced
- 6 artichokes
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 3 tsp salt
- 1 ½ tsp black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill a large bowl with 4 cups of water and the juice of 2 lemons.
- Using a serrated knife, cut off the top third of an artichoke. Trim 1/4 inch off of the stem. Use your hands to peel off the rough outer leaves on the lower section of the artichoke, to expose the tender and lighter leaves. Use a peeler to peel the artichoke stem. Use a spoon or a melon baller to scoop out the spiky "choke" in the center of the artichoke heart. Place the trimmed artichoke into the lemon water. Repeat trimming the remaining artichokes and place them into the lemon water.
- Drain the artichokes from the water and season each artichoke with 1/2 tsp salt and 1/8 tsp black pepper.
- Place 4 tbsp of olive oil into a large pot over medium heat. Once the oil is hot, place the artichokes into the pot and sear them on all sides until golden brown, about 4-6 minutes.
- Position the artichokes upside down in the pot, so each artichoke stem is facing up. Pour enough water into the pot to cover the artichoke hearts and keep the stems above the water. Simmer over a medium to medium low heat for about 30-45 minutes, covered, until the artichokes are fork tender. Serve hot.



SPANISH SPONGE CAKE

Sponge cake is a classic Passover dessert, with roots in the Spanish Jewish community. Here is an easy, foolproof version.

INGREDIENTS:

- 9 eggs, separated
- 1/3 c matzah cake meal
- 1/2 c potato starch, plus extra for the pan
- 1 c sugar
- 2 c confectioners sugar
- 3 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp finely minced lemon zest
- 2 tsp finely minced orange zest
- 2 tsp lemon or orange juice
- 1/4 tsp, plus a pinch of salt

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 350 F. Lightly grease an angel food or 10" tube pan and dust it with potato starch.
- Place the egg whites over a bowl of warm water and allow them to stand for a couple of minutes to warm (or leave them at room temperature for 20-30 minutes).
- Meanwhile, sift together the cake meal, potato starch, and 1/4 tsp salt. Set aside.
- In one bowl, briskly whisk together the egg yolks, 1/2 cup of the sugar, confectioners sugar, vanilla, orange and lemon zest, and lemon or orange juice. Stir in the cake meal and potato starch and combine well.
- In a mixing bowl, with clean, dry beaters, whisk the egg whites and salt together until frothy. At high speed, whip, slowly dusting in the remaining sugar, until the whites are stiff and glossy.
- Mix 1/3 of the whipped egg whites into the yolk mixture to lighten and aerate it. Then gently fold in the remaining whites, in 2 batches, to incorporate but not deflate the whites.
- Gently pour the batter into the prepared pan and place in the oven. After 10 minutes, reduce the heat to 325 F and bake until done (30-45 minutes) or until the cake seems just firm when lightly touched.
- Cool the pan by inverting onto a large plate. Cake will eventually unmold itself without losing much of its height this way.

Variation I: with the matzah meal, add 1 tsp ground cinnamon, 1/2 tsp ground cloves, 1/4 tsp each grated nutmeg, ginger, and ground allspice. You may also use brown sugar instead of white.

Variation II: replace the orange or lemon juice with sweet, red, kosher wine. Add 1/2 cup finely ground toasted nuts with the cake meal and potato starch, or sprinkle the top of the unbaked cake with 2 tsp sugar and 1/4 cup sliced almonds.



QC ... *Drat!* If you missed the 2024 deadline, start planning now!



A Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”) is a useful tool if you’ve reached the age of 70-½ and want to give to a designated,

field-of-interest, or unrestricted fund at the UJCVP Endowment. Indeed, in 2025, you can direct up to \$108,000 from your IRA to many types of funds at the UJCVP Endowment, although donor-advised funds are not eligible.

But what if you intended to make a QCD in 2024 and time got away from you? Perhaps you even initiated a QCD on December 31 but it was too late to qualify for 2024 because of the way these transactions are settled between administrators and recipients. This is a complex topic for sure, and you’ll want to discuss the details with your tax advisor. At a high-level, here are a few considerations if you missed the opportunity last year.

First and foremost, ensure you have taken your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2024 if you are required to do so. Failing to take your RMD can result in significant penalties, so this should be your top priority. If you missed your RMD deadline because you were planning to make a QCD, you should file IRS Form 5329 and request a waiver.

While you can’t retroactively make a QCD for the previous year, you can get a jump on 2025. There are lots of reasons to make your QCDs early in the year. For example, it’s smart to try to avoid potential conflicts with the “first-dollars-out rule,” meaning that the first dollars withdrawn from an IRA will count toward your RMD. QCDs early in the year help ensure that it will count toward your RMD before taking any other distributions that might be taxable. And of course, avoiding the year-end rush is imperative.

The UJCVP Endowment team is always happy to work with you and your advisors to help you carry out your charitable giving goals, whether you’re exploring a QCD or any of the many ways you can support the causes you love. We look forward to working with you this year!



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UJCVP Community March/April 2025 Calendar

Thursday, Mar. 6, 2025
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Sunday, Mar. 9, 2025
2pm - Krav Maga Class

Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2025
4:30pm - Hebrew School

Wednesday, Mar. 12, 2025
9am - CNU LifeLong Learning:
Intro to Judaism
10am-2pm - Red
Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Sunday, Mar. 16, 2025
12-3pm - Purim Carnival

Tuesday, Mar. 18, 2025
4:30pm - Hebrew School

Wednesday, Mar. 19, 2025
7pm - UJC General
Board Meeting

Thursday, Mar. 20, 2025
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Tuesday, Mar. 25, 2025
4:30pm - Hebrew School

Wednesday, Mar. 26, 2025
5:30pm - Pearl Society
Birthday Bash

Thursday, Mar. 27, 2025
10am-12pm - Kibbitz & Create
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Sunday, Mar. 30, 2025
12:30pm - CNU Lecture:
Broken Vessels, Restored Souls

Tuesday, Apr. 1, 2025
4:30pm - Hebrew School

Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Sunday, Apr. 6, 2025
10am-12pm - Good Deeds Day
2pm - Youth Creation
Celebration
2pm - NextGen Passover

Monday, Apr. 7, 2025
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Tuesday, Apr. 8, 2025
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Wednesday, Apr. 9, 2025
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Thursday, Apr. 10, 2025
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Friday, Apr. 11, 2025
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Monday, Apr. 14, 2025
UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Thursday, Apr. 17, 2025
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Tuesday, Apr. 22, 2025
4:30pm - Hebrew School
6pm - Spring Craft Night

Thursday, Apr. 23, 2025
7pm - Yom Hashoah
Remembrance Program

Thursday, Apr. 24, 2025
10am-12pm - Kibbitz & Create
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Sunday, Apr. 27, 2025
10am - Hashayara Joint Sunday
School Kids' Workshop
3pm - Hashayara Family Concert

Tuesday, Apr. 29, 2025
4:30pm - Hebrew School

Wednesday, Apr. 30, 2025
10am-2pm - Red
Cross Blood Drive
5pm - Wild Art
Workshop
7pm - UJC General
Board Meeting

