

PJ Library preserves richness and vibrancy of Jewish culture, one book at a time

A newly-released survey measuring the impact of PJ Library finds the program plays an important role in the lives of Jewish families regardless of background.

Joining thousands of Jewish families across North America, Mid-Hudson Valley PJ Library families say the program has influenced or supported how they talk about and practice Jewish traditions in their home. Almost 90% of the more than 300 families participating in the Mid-Hudson Valley program say PJ Library helps them have conversations about Jewish traditions, values and customs with their children.

The study also indicates that PJ Library is more likely to impact interfaith families than in-married families when it comes to celebrating Jewish holidays and learning more about Judaism. *Across the United States and Canada, the majority of interfaith families who participate in PJ Library say the program has not only spurred them to celebrate Jewish holidays (64%) and Shabbat (58%) but also encouraged them to learn more about Judaism (89%) and cook traditional Jewish food (66%).* Here in the Mid-Hudson Valley, interfaith families who participate in PJ Library say the program has increased their confidence in their ability to engage their children around Jewish traditions, values and customs.



“Working to preserve a strong Jewish community for future generations is at the heart of everything we do at the Foundation and through PJ Library,” said Harold Grinspoon, founder of PJ Library. **“Books are a natural way to invite people into a global community and to pass values and traditions onto the next generation, ensuring our children and their children grow up connected to their Jewish heritage.”**

PJ Library, flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, delivers more than 170,000 Jewish children’s books and music CDs free to families throughout North America each month, including more than 300 in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

But PJ Library is much more than a books program. Implemented in the Mid-Hudson Valley by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County in partnership with Ulster County Federation and with the support of The Harding Club and other local donors, a team of PJ Library professionals creates meaningful programming for families with young children all around the region.

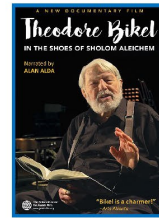


“We help folks connect with other families right in their neighborhoods. In addition to holiday programs and regular story times, we also create Parents’ Night Out events and local coffees to help parents connect with other parents so they can share the challenges and rewards of young family parenting,” says Melinda Margulies, PJ Library Mid-Hudson Program Director.

2017 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Jewish Storytelling & the American Experience

PREMIERE
Thursday, Sept 7, 7:00-9:00pm



THEODORE BIKEL, IN THE SHOES OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM

The stories of two beloved Jewish icons are woven together in this enchanting documentary, which combines Bikel’s charismatic storytelling and masterful performances with a broader exploration of Aleichem’s remarkable life and work.

A pioneer of modern Jewish literature who championed and luxuriated in the Yiddish language, Aleichem (1859–1916) conveys like no one else the soul of the tragicomic Jewish shtetl life. *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Broadway and Hollywood musical adaptation of Aleichem’s *Tevye the Milkman* short stories, immortalized him.

Vienna-born Theodore Bikel and his family escaped Austria after the Nazi occupation and migrated to Palestine before settling in the United States. An unstoppable performer, Bikel, who passed away in 2015, was the foremost interpreter of Sholom Aleichem’s work, portraying *Tevye on the American stage* more than 2,000 times. His career spanned more than 150 screen roles (including an Oscar-nominated role in *The Defiant Ones*) and countless stage and musical productions.

The film’s highlights include interviews with Alan Alda, Fyvush Finkel, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, and Sholom Aleichem’s granddaughter, Bel Kaufman, who died in 2014. Aleichem, the great Jewish storyteller, and Theodore Bikel, troubadour, actor and one of the most popular stage interpreters of Aleichem’s work—are two sides of the same

Guest presenter for this special screening: To be announced soon

Admission is free. But a Jewish education is not.
Donations in advance or on the night of a screening benefit:

The JFDC Howard Lynne Scholarship Fund
PO Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

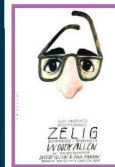
All programs begin at 7:00pm with light refreshments at 6:30.
Screenings are presented at Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY
All events are open to the public



The Jewish Federation OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

ZELIG

Thursday, Sept 14, 7:00-9:00pm



This quirky mockumentary focuses on the quest to define one’s self in a conformity-driven world. Leonard Zelig elects to be like others rather than stand out from the crowd. What could possibly go wrong?

One of Allen’s lesser known films. It’s also one you won’t soon forget.

Following the film, Dr. Peter Antyles, Vassar College professor, takes us on a brief thought-provoking exploration of assimilation and the media.

CROSSING DELANCEY

Tuesday, Sept 19, 7:00-9:30pm



This classic tale of old world meets new finds 30-something Izzy (Amy Irving) resisting the matchmaking of her lovable bubble (Reizl Bozyk.) Izzy, more interested in worldly author, Anton (Jerome Krabbe), isn’t

prepared for what happens when she meets local boy Sam (Peter Riegert), “the pickle man.” Charmingly contemporary, even today.

We’re thrilled to welcome Delancey Street screenwriter, Susan Sandler, to discuss her movie and the craft of Jewish storytelling after the film.

Last year’s programs filled quickly! Reservations strongly suggested. Call Jewish Federation of Dutchess County (845) 471-9811 or email admin@jewishdutchess.org. Don’t be left out.

This program is made possible through a generous grant from the Ann and Abe Effron Fund.

After a recent program, Beacon resident, Chris Ditata offered these words: “I can’t thank Hudson Valley PJ Library enough for putting on a wonderful Grandparents’ Celebration. My two daughters got to play with friends outside, listen to Jewish stories with their grandmother, and create their own books about what their grandparents taught them throughout the years. Not only did the kids love it, but I appreciated being able to give my mother and grandmother [four generations attended!] an afternoon of Jewish culture and family. We will absolutely be attending more PJ Library events!”

PJ Library, the flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, delivers more than 170,000 Jewish children’s books and music CDs free to families throughout North America each month, including more than 300 in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Books are sent to children ages six months through eight years of age with each subscriber receiving a title that is carefully selected for high-quality content and age-level appropriateness. This year a new program for older children

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Dutchess County Jewish Federation Mitzvah Day 2017 Visitors



New York State Assembly Member Didi Barrett and Mitzvah Day Coordinator Karen Hochhauser with a finished Birthday Bag.



New York State Senator Susan Serino and volunteer Perla Kaufman taking a break at Mitzvah Day 2017

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