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# Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

August 2023/5783



**PENINSULA**  
*Farmer's Market*

Now through  
September  
14th  
on the UJC  
Campus

more info on  
page 9



**BREAK & MAKE**

**CRAFT NIGHT!**  
**AUG. 24TH**  
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Before



After

## A Beautiful Transformation

A big shout out goes to Denille Francis for making our UJC outdoor backyard space absolutely beautiful with her original mural! Sixty hours over three weeks, 11 gallons of primer and paint, and battling the summer heat and critters, but the transformation is amazing. Be sure to take a peek around back if you haven't yet seen it!

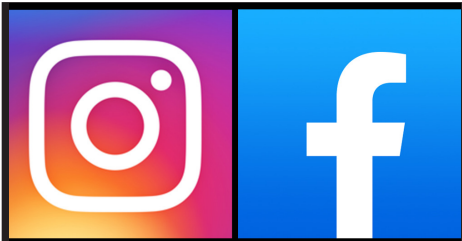
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ujcnp](https://www.facebook.com/ujcnp)

## 2023 Annual Campaign

In memory of Michael Klesmer  
Margie & Joe Shapiro

In memory of Joshua Benjamin Solomon  
Karen & Glenn Solomon

## 20/30 Young Adult Group

In honor of our fun 20/30 group  
Josh Reeves  
David Stern

## Jewish Family Services Fund

In honor of Becca & Eric Maurer's new baby, Anaelle  
Joan & Steve Marks

## Eric & Jack Luckman Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Rabbi Dror's retirement  
Lori & Jeff Luckman

In memory of Gerard Guillory  
Lori & Jeff Luckman

## Marilyn & Mark Nataupsky Holocaust Education Fund

In honor of Reece David & Brad Rubenstein for their RST confirmation project, organizing the Holocaust library collection  
Dr. Mark Nataupsky

## Pearl Society Fund

In memory of Eileen & Steve Wood's sweet kitty cat, Abby  
Susie Hockman

## UJC Youth Fund

In honor of Becca & Eric Maurer's new baby, Anaelle  
Melissa & Dave Kashy  
Sara Traster & Dave Harriss

Mazel tov to Jessi Malkin on her new UJC position  
Melissa & Dave Kashy

# Jewish Family Services - Libby Batten



**Oh no! It's time to get the kids ready for school!  
Are we ready?**



Care.com is chock full of great ideas to help parents and their children make that summer fun time to school transition easier and less stressful.

As summer comes to an end and back-to-school

season begins, it can be hard to get back into the rhythm of a regular schedule — for both kids and adults. The trick, of course, is to start early. Start preparing everyone a few weeks early. If you're hiring a babysitter, nanny or tutor, consider bringing them on a little early to help get your child on track before the first day of school.

## **PREPARE MENTALLY**

- Set your kids' sleep schedules back to "school time" two weeks before the first day of school.
- Discuss what your kids can expect on the first day of school so they feel more prepared.
- Talk openly with your kids about their feelings about returning to school and be ready to answer any questions.

## **PUT TIME & SCHEDULE MANAGEMENT PLANS IN PLACE**

- Allow your kids to help select school supplies
- Create a family calendar or choose a calendar app that tracks everyone's activities and commitments.
- Schedule blocks of time to check in with each child to see how things are going.

## **PLAN FOR BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL HOURS**

- Hire a before- or after school sitter to help care for your kids while you're at work.
- Have a backup transportation plan in case your kids miss the bus.
- Carefully review extracurricular activities to prevent overscheduling.
- Refresh your rules about screen time for the school year.

## **SET UP A SYSTEM FOR MAKING / BUYING LUNCH**

- Buy reusable bottles to increase water consumption during the day.
- Discuss the different pros and cons of bringing versus buying school lunches. Allow your kids to help make that choice.
- If they choose to take lunch let your kids get involved in creating and preparing their daily lunch menus.
- If they choose to buy lunch, get copies of school menus in advance to discuss options.

## **DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN THE NIGHT BEFORE**

- Encourage your kids to lay out their school clothes before going to bed.
- Have kids pack their school bags.
- Be sure that projects, lunches, homework, and permission forms are packed and ready to go.

## **SET THE STAGE FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP**

- Establish regular bedtime routines.
- Remove tech devices, such as phones and tablets, from kids' bedrooms so the focus is on sleeping.
- Use night lights, white sound machines and fans for kids who can't get to sleep.

## **PLAN FOR SMOOTH MORNINGS**

- Make sure your kids (and you) have an effective wakeup alarm that works for them.
- Create a rewards system for when your kids meet goals or do extra things around the house.

## **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF**

- Schedule at least one 30-minute block in your calendar each day for self-care.
- Do something fun to diffuse this stressful time of year for all of you.
- Take a breath. You are doing this!

With a good bit of planning — and with you as their calm and collected guide — your kids will be better able to approach the school year feeling prepared, excited, and ready to get to work.



# Education Corner

Director of Education & Program Development, Carmela Malkin Kuhn

Sarfan Center Assistant Director, Naioki Wood



## Summertime Vibes

Water play, sunny days, colorful crafts and special guests have been a theme at the Sarfan Center as we kick back and enjoy all that summer has to offer.

Dr. Loretta Rubenstein visited our school to share her passion of spreading joy through connection. The children were excited to see that she didn't come alone - she brought her therapy dog, Koal! Both Dr. Rubenstein and Koal told tales of their journey of bringing comfort, love and connection to their community.

## Summer Camp Chaverim

Summer Dream Team of 2023



Our summer camp team is filled with talented and compassionate leaders. From the start of the day, they are always chatting about who they can't wait to see or what exciting moment the day will bring. They win everyone's hearts with a high five, smile and a joke or two.



The team has successfully (and unknowingly) built a tradition of nurturing an energetic and loving camp culture.

It's an incredible feeling to look around the campus and know that the majority of both our campers and staff have lifelong stories to share about their previous camp experience. Proudly, these experiences include the kindness and empathy they've learned and practiced, and how open, flexible, and curious they have become over the years.

These life-transforming experiences will be carried with them through the many milestones they will achieve for years to come. And that is the best reward for what we do summer after summer!

# W&M Hillel - Programming Update



## Engagement

Through the 2022-2023 academic year W&M Hillel engaged 351 unique students and 89 students attended six or more programs. We are looking forward to a new paid student engagement intern starting in the fall.

## Birthright & Israel Programming

Rabbi Litt led a Birthright Israel trip in June, taking 40 students to Israel, many of whom were local. This trip was a huge success with 14 students staying in Israel for Jewish, experiential education opportunities.

## Israel Programs

This semester's Israel program was better than ever. We had two "shinshinim." These dedicated Israeli representatives educated and inspired students of all ages about Israel. We had them one to two days a week this entire academic year and we look forward to having two new young Israel educators start next fall. This program helped to transform our Israel education program. We had multiple Israel events including Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut events, which were both very successful. The latter brought students together for an Israel party with a BBQ, music, and activities. This year was by far the most engaging Israel program we have ever had at W&M Hillel, and we look forward to continuing to have success in this important area.



## Shabbat & Holidays

Shabbat at the SJC continues to grow and be a stronghold of our program. There were between 25-50 students weekly. This year's

Passover seders had more than 100 students. Hillel also ran a Purim carnival that was open to all students. There was a live band, food, pie throwing, a dramatic reading of the Purim story, and more. It was a huge success, with hundreds of students being exposed to Jewish heritage.

## Jewish Education

This semester, Rabbi Litt started a lunch and learn program, delving into "hot topics" in Jewish philosophy each week.

## Shenkman Jewish Center

The SJC will be commemorating its five-year anniversary in November. There will be a celebration with the Shenkman family and we are looking forward to an anniversary year to remember.



A colorful birthday banner for Julia Downer. On the left is a portrait of Julia, a young woman with glasses and a striped shirt. To her right, the text reads: "August 27th", "Julia Downer", "Sarfan Center Pre-K Teacher &amp; Camp Chaverim Art Teacher". The background is decorated with balloons, a gift box, and the text "HAPPY Birthday to you" in a decorative font.

# Campaign Corner - Jessi Malkin



I am beyond excited to begin my journey as the Director of Campaign and Community Impact. The UJCVP has been my home since I set foot on this campus in 2004. Back then, I was Michael's girlfriend, helping Carmela out when she needed a camp counselor. Time has flown by!

I bring with me a deep-rooted passion for the UJCVP and a strong commitment to this community and its development. I am truly privileged to have the opportunity to work with each and every one of you to make a difference in the lives of others within our local community and beyond.

The annual campaign serves as a powerful vehicle for us to come together and support the collective strength and resilience of Jewish communities across the continent. It makes big changes in the lives of others.



Five campers are having the time of their lives this summer at Camp Chaverim thanks to scholarships provided by the UJC annual campaign. Internationally, JFNA was able to support Tel Aviv terror attack victims and their families through the Fund for Victims of Terror. These programs connect us to each other and abroad reminding us that we are not alone in this journey.

I am excited for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing all we accomplish together, and I am deeply grateful for your continued support and generosity.

To learn more about our annual campaign and all the good it does, please give me a call! I'd love to chat with you.



**BREAK & MAKE**  
**GLASS JEWELRY CLASS**  
WITH INSTRUCTOR ELAINE ABRAMS

**THURS. AUG. 24TH**  
**6-7:30PM**

**Passport Members: \$5**  
**Non-Members: \$15**

**REGISTER AT**  
**UJCVP.ORG**  
**SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**Questions? Email:**  
**straster@ujcvp.org**

## JFNA chief, Jewish Agency board chair hand-deliver grants to victims on Tel Aviv terror attack

*The two both happened to be in Israel on trips so they could give checks personally; JFNA had just 'replenished' the Fund for Victims of Terror with \$400,000*

Within two days of any terror attack in Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel's Fund for Victims of Terror provides the victim or their family with an emergency grant of just over \$1,000.

Following a ramming-stabbing attack in Tel Aviv on Tuesday that injured seven people, including a pregnant woman who lost her baby, those emergency funds were given to several of the victims personally by Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric Fingerhut and Jewish Agency Board of Governors Chair Mark Wilf, each of whom happened to be in Israel this week, as well as by the head of the fund, former Knesset member Ayelet Nahmias-Verbin.

On Wednesday afternoon, Fingerhut, Wilf and Nahmias-Verbin visited Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital where the victims had been taken. Due to the conditions of some of the victims, the three were only able to speak with a few of them or with members of their family.

Speaking to eJewishPhilanthropy, Wilf and Fingerhut both said that the grants issued by the fund are both a practical form of assistance to people affected by terror and also sends a message to them that the Jewish people are standing with them.

"When we deliver it, we're able to say we love you and *refuah shlema* (get well), but also that the Jewish people of the world are thinking of you and are with you and our hearts are with you. So being able to do that today was very, very emotional," Fingerhut said on Wednesday night, a few hours after his visit to the hospital.

"It's not so much the financial help – which is of course important – but that we are expressing mutual responsibility from the Jewish people," Wilf said, noting that anyone of any religion or nationality is eligible for the grant.

"If this occurs in Israel – whatever faith, whatever the background – we are there right away to show our values and show our compassion," he said.

One of the victims who received a grant on Wednesday was an Ethiopian migrant worker, who had been pregnant but lost the baby due to her injuries.

"We talked with the husband, the wife was not able to talk with us... can you imagine – you come to this



*JFNA CEO Eric Fingerhut hands a check to the mother of a victim of a terror attack*

country to work and to contribute and then are victimized in this way," Fingerhut said.

He also recalled meeting the mother of one of the victims whose other daughter had only recently died from an illness. "She had just lost another daughter a few months ago to illness, and then to be in the hospital with her other daughter – it's just so painful," he said.

Wilf, who is in Israel with a delegation from the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, N.J., said the victims and their families were greatly appreciative of the grant and the visit. "It was very powerful to feel the gratitude from the families, from the victims, for yes, the financial [help] but also, as or more importantly, for the sense of connection, that someone is thinking of [them] at a very impactful and emotional time, a traumatic time," he said.

This was neither Fingerhut's nor Wilf's first time distributing emergency grants to victims of terror. Each had met other recipients in years past, though those were people who were injured or whose homes were destroyed in Gaza rocket attacks, they said.

Fingerhut came to Israel last week as part of a work trip full of meetings with Israeli government officials and nonprofit groups, including the Fund for Victims of Terror. In light of the growing need for the Fund for Victims of Terror – both from ongoing payments from rocket attacks from Gaza and from the recent rise in terror attacks from the West Bank – JFNA had just donated an additional \$400,000, he said.

"The coincidence was that we actually were working on replenishing the fund. Of course, we didn't expect to have to use it so quickly. But there you are," he said.

JFNA's funding comes from the collective donations of all 146 federations across North America, not from individual donors specifically giving to the fund, Fingerhut said.

*Continued on next page*

"I think that's part of the power of it. When I handed a check over or when Mark Wilf handed a check over today, we're able to say this is from the Jewish people of the world and the Jewish people specifically of North America who just want to help and want you to know that we're there for you and that we're all one people," he said.

The Fund for Victims of Terror was established in 2002, in the midst of the Second Intifada. In addition to the immediate grant of NIS 4,000 (\$1,080), victims are also eligible for up to NIS 25,000 (\$6,750) in payments for up to three years, though this was extended beyond that time limit during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 9,000 Israelis have received grants through the fund.

The initial emergency grant is provided to anyone who has been hospitalized or to the families of someone who has been killed, as well as to anyone whose home has been destroyed in an attack.

"You don't have to write a proposal, you don't have to apply, you don't have to produce receipts. Nothing. It's just, we know you have needs; here's something to help with those needs," Fingerhut said.

The additional grants do require a formal request. Nahmias-Verbin said the fund does not provide grants for anything that is already covered by Israel's National Security (Bituah Leumi) programs for victims of terror.

The fund is made up of donations from both JFNA and Keren Hayesod. According to Nahmias-Verbin, the fund never contains less than \$1 million.

"In 2022, we gave \$1.2 million in emergency grants," she said. "In 2023, we've already given over NIS 400,000 (\$108,000)."

Wilf singled out Nahmias-Verbin for praise, noting the care and compassion she showed to the victims and their families at the hospital.

"To see how she handled a very delicate situation, soothing people during a very traumatic time – I was so impressed by her, by her way, by her compassion," Wilf said.

Nahmias-Verbin, who has led the fund for the past three years since she left the Knesset, stressed that the fund is not meant to provide pure financial support to victims but is instead meant for rehabilitation.

"We don't give economic support. We can't help economically. That's not our charter, but it is our charter to help rehabilitate the person," she said. This can include paying for professional development courses, paying for toys or programs for children with post-traumatic stress, or even rental assistance in certain cases.

In addition to these grants, Nahmias-Verbin, who heads the fund, said the fund and its employees – almost all of them women, she noted – maintain a close relationship with the victims and their families, providing emotional support, as well as help in navigating the bureaucracy of the Israeli government to ensure they get all of the assistance that they are entitled to under law.

Nahmias-Verbin said that these tight, long-lasting ties – which can continue even after the victims are no longer eligible for grants – lead her to consider the victims to be part of the fund's "family," quickly adding: "But I am always upset when our family grows."

.....



**Lunch & Bingo on Thursdays**  
Lunch for ages 60+ - \$2.50  
Lunch for Passport Members - FREE!  
*Additional charge for Bingo cards*

Bingo begins at 10:45am, lunch is served at 12:00pm  
Bingo resumes after lunch for the month of August.  
**Beginning in Sept. bingo will NOT resume after lunch.**

Email Carmela:  
[carmela@ujcvp.org](mailto:carmela@ujcvp.org) for more info or to RSVP



# PENINSULA *Farmer's Market*

**VENDOR LINE UP:  
AUGUST 2023  
10-2**

Allen's Farm  
Big Daddy's BarBQ  
Bloodys by Buz  
Casa de Proa  
Cousin Butterfly  
CrunchOn! Snacks  
Ellie's Cellar  
Fennario Coffee Roasters  
G&S Apiary  
Glow Holistic  
Homemade Dog Treats &  
Accessories by Claudia  
Hunger LLC  
ISLSNAC

Kathi's Clam Chowder  
Kahiau's Bakery & Cafe'  
Liliana's Produce  
Lily Haberdashery  
Linda's Goat Soap & Pasta  
Neighborhood Harvest  
Breezy Hill Meadworks  
Souplove Virgiia Beach  
Sugarbee Treats  
Superlocal Food Project  
Versability  
The Pearl Society  
Village Cheeseworks  
Virginia Oyster Company

401 City Center Blvd  
@ the United Jewish Community of the Virginia  
Peninsula  
Newport News, VA 23602

# DIAMOND EDGE

## Landscape

Call to get scheduled for Fall services

**Aerating | Seeding  
Fertilizing | Bush Trimming**

**Brian Diamond**

**757-329-5677**

Facebook: Diamond Edge LLC



### Glendale Pool Events

Tues. 8/1 - Food Truck, 4:30-7:30pm

Fri. 8/11 - Floats & Floats, 7-9pm

Fri. 8/18 - Adult Night, 9-11pm

Tues. 8/29 - Food Truck, 4:30-7:30pm

Visit [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org) for pool hours.

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# WATER AEROBICS with INSTRUCTOR STACEY PAULL

Passport Members - FREE!  
Non-Members - \$5 per person, per class  
*Meet at Glendale Pool - 53 Minton Drive*

**August 1, 4, 7, 10 (6:30-7:30pm)**

**RSVP at [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)**

**Questions? Email Sara: [straster@ujcvp.org](mailto:straster@ujcvp.org)**



**DR. VERED SAKAL**  
*Jewish Studies Expert, Rabbi and Captain!*

Christopher Newport University proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Vered Sakal (PhD – Hebrew University of Jerusalem) as the Bertram and Gladys Aaron Endowed Professor of Jewish Studies. CNU, home of the Captains, is building a strong Jewish Studies program with Sakal at the helm.

*A special thank you to Gladys and the late Bert' Aaron for making this position possible for our students and the Jewish community.*

**CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY** | Learn more about Virginia's public, liberal arts university in Newport News at [cnu.edu](http://cnu.edu).



## **PJ Library Dip Into Summer**

Sunday, August 13th, 2-4pm

Meet up with Gavrielle Bargash at Glendale pool for a dip, some dipping snacks, and a PJ Library story.

Please RSVP by Friday, Aug. 11th to:  
[gbargash@ujcvp.org](mailto:gbargash@ujcvp.org)

## **20/30 YOUNG ADULT AUGUST EVENTS**



**MONDAY 8/7**

Music Bingo @ Tradition Brewery, 7-9pm



**WEDNESDAY 8/9**

20/30 on the Lawn @ Port Warwick, 6-9pm



**WEDNESDAY 8/23**

Disc Golf @ NN Park 6-8pm



**SUNDAY 8/27**

Beach Clean Up @ Buckroe Beach, 10am-1pm

**RSVP: [UJCVP.ORG](http://UJCVP.ORG)**

# Pearl Society - Sara Traster

## Director of Marketing & Communications Director of Pearl Society



The UJC Pearl Society began in 2018 under the leadership of Sarah Barnett and myself. We had an idea and thought we'd throw it at the wall and see what happened... As the Pearls have just completed their sixth year, I could not be more proud of the group, the ladies, and the good we do all over the world!



The Pearl Society ladies are a diverse group of women who contribute, first and foremost, to our own UJC annual campaign, but who have a desire to express ourselves more personally throughout the Jewish world. Unlike other Pearl Societies across the country, ours is unique in that we incorporate a giving circle.

Throughout the year, we meet and discuss other non-profit organizations where we would like our giving circle funds to have an impact. We truly enjoy ourselves while spending the year learning about and discussing Jewish philanthropy and we achieve meaningful consensus on where our funds get directed.

Each year the Pearl giving circle funds go to two local organizations, one Jewish and one non-Jewish; two national Jewish organizations; and two international Jewish organizations.

This year, the Pearl giving circle funds totalled \$5,040, giving \$840 each to the following organizations:

Local - Maccabi Team NN, Peake Early Childhood Center

National - Be'chol Lashon (*raising awareness of the ethnic, racial and cultural diversity of Jewish people around the world*), Bend the Arc (*inclusivity, equality, support and dignity for all people*)

International - Hand in Hand (*building partnership and equality between Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens through integrated schools*), Tikvah Children's Home (*support for children and war refugees in Ukraine*)

Check out this list of organizations the Pearls have given to over the years. It is quite impressive!

### LOCAL JEWISH

CNU Hillel  
Jewish Family Services  
Camp Chaverim  
Jewish Cemetery  
20/30 Young Adult Group

### LOCAL NON-JEWISH

Hampton Roads Refugee Relief  
Edmarc Hospice For Children  
Newport News Education Foundation  
Pay It For Her (*women's care and support through small kindnesses*)  
Fear2Freedom (*care kits for victims of sexual assault*)

### NATIONAL

In Shifra's Arms (*pregnancy support*)  
Keshet (*LGBTQ+ equality*)  
Hasidah (*infertility support*)

*Continued on next page*



NATIONAL (cont.)

- Sharsheret (*breast & ovarian cancer support*)
- Amudim (*sexual abuse, substance abuse/addiction, domestic violence support*)
- Ramah Bamidbar (*wilderness therapies for Jewish teens & young adults*)
- Blue Dove Foundation (*substance abuse support*)
- Mazon (*hunger aid relief*)
- Beit T'shuvah (*addiction support*)
- Footsteps (*support for individuals leaving insular ultra-Orthodox communities*)

INTERNATIONAL

- Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief
- JAFI Youth Villages (*support for at-risk youth*)
- IsraAID (*disaster risk reduction and response*)
- HIAS, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (*refugee support*)
- Innovation Africa (*Israeli solar and water technologies to remote African villages*)
- Israel Trauma Coalition (*natural and man-made disaster relief*)
- Sundara (*soap and hygiene education to impoverished communities*)
- TOM, Tikkun Olam Makers (*3D printing projects for affordable solutions for disabilities*)



In addition to philanthropy through our giving circle, the Pearls host a social action party each year to benefit a local non-profit. This year, we collected new sensory items and books, then came together to assemble calm down kits for early childhood educators through Smart Beginnings.

Past social action parties include:

2022: Pearl Bed Time Party - new childrens bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace

2021: Pearl Parking Lot Shoe Party - new kids sneakers for the Shoe Lady

2020: Pearl Diaper Party - baby and adult diapers for the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank

2019: Pearl Prom - gently used evening gowns for Queen in a Dress



2018: Royal Shower Happy Hour - household and baby items for Hampton Roads Refugee Relief



Continued on next page



This year the Pearls also took on the endeavor to bake and sell kosher pareve challah at the farmer's market on our UJC campus. The proceeds from the challah sales will be used for local Pearl community and programming support.

We are a compassionate, caring, and involved group of women who are happy to be of some small help in the world, while also representing the strength of our small community. Suffice it to say, the women in the Pearl Society do some pretty great things, and they deserve to be acknowledged!

Mazel tov, ladies, on all the good you do!



Becca Maurer (new member in 2023)  
 Beth Arager (original member)  
 Beverly Sexton (new member in 2023)  
 Bogie Edouard (new member in 2023)  
 Charlene Wendell (original member)  
 Denille Francis (new member in 2023)  
 Eileen Wood (original member)  
 Ellen Hockman (new member in 2023)  
 Sylvia Craft  
 Elaine Abrams  
 Jan Frank  
 Janet Glasofer  
 Janice Rockwell  
 Jenni Connolly

Jessi Malkin (original member)  
 Karen Forrest  
 Karen Friedman  
 Kelli Caplan (original member)  
 Danile Spokony  
 Martha Katz-Hyman  
 Melissa Diamond (new member in 2023)  
 Molly Link (new member in 2023)  
 Robin Levy (original member)  
 Rosanne Stupar  
 Sara Traster (original member)  
 Sarah Barnett (original member)  
 Sheila Bookbinder  
 Tova Warren (original member)

Read below for some Pearls of wisdom...

Sylvia Craft: "I saw the Pearl Society as an opportunity to donate to meaningful organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and to see the results of my gifts. Being a part of this giving circle fills my life with happiness, knowing that my gifts are hopefully making a difference in others' lives. Being a part of the Pearl Society offers me a chance to meet others who feel the same as I about helping others, and I get to connect, kibbutz, learn and be inspired by some really great ladies! Each of us has the chance to bring giving opportunities to the group as well as to learn about organizations, many of which we may not be familiar with, all of which need funds to sustain and grow. The future of our Pearl Society can be limitless! If you are willing to share, want to be enriched by financially helping others, make new Pearl friends, the Pearl Society is for you!"

Beth Arager: "I joined Pearl because I felt that our gift to the organizations has meaning. Even though it may seem small it helps them."

Robin Levy: "I love Pearl because it gives me the opportunity to meet and get to know women in the community I had never met before. I enjoy being with other giving hearts."

Molly Link: "I joined Pearl because of Sara Traster and Sarah Barnett. I like learning about the Jewish community and culture. I often feel like an outsider since I married into it, but Pearl is so welcoming. I like that they

*Continued on next page*

always look out for others no matter what religion, background or race. Pearl embraces all. Pearl finds a way to not only support financially but be a cheerleader for a good cause. I enjoy learning more about Jews around the world, charities and I love baking challah.”

Janice Rockwell: “Pearl brought me back out of my shell after the pandemic as it was my first real outing. I really enjoy the fellowship and the giving aspect. It is a really great group of ladies!”

Janet Glasofer: “I love the feeling of camaraderie and community that Pearl society builds, while doing tikkun olam.”

Sarah Barnett: “Giving WITH others feels even more meaningful than giving alone. There is a sense of shared mission and values. Along with that, I love learning about organizations I didn’t know about before. I like getting to know a group of women in a different way and have learned a lot about the generous natures of my peers. Pearl Society creates a sense of a community of giving amongst a diverse group of women. It elevates the UJCVP’s exposure in the greater community when we make a donation to a non Jewish entity. It hightens a sense of worth regarding the UJCVP with this particular group of women. The future for our Pearl Society is whatever we creatively want it to be! There are so many directions this can go in.”

**If you would like to join Pearl Society, please contact Sara Traster: [straster@ujcvp.org](mailto:straster@ujcvp.org)**

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### Congregation Adath Jeshurun

401 City Center Blvd. , Newport News, VA 23606

Telephone # 757-930-0820 | Website: [www.ajshul.com](http://www.ajshul.com)

Rabbi Gershon Litt, 757-559-1836



With sorrow we announce that Rabbi Yosil Rosensweig passed away in West Bloomfield, Michigan, on June 21, 2023. He was 76 years old. Reb Yosil was rabbi at Adath Jeshurun from 1996 until 1998, when his wife Kathy became ill and they needed to return to Canada for her treatment. He was a compassionate rabbi, an inspiring teacher and a gifted musician with an exceptional sense of humor. Dinners at Shul were always special with the Rabbi and his guitar. May his family be comforted at this time of sorrow. Baruch Dayan Emet.

It’s August and time to plan for the High Holidays. Here is an outline of the Yom Tov Schedule. It will be updated in the September Newsletter. Rabbi Leifert will be joining us again this year for a meaningful holiday.

Erev Rosh Hashanah 5784, September 15th, starts at 6:45pm  
Candle lighting: 6:55pm  
Rosh Hashanah Day 1, September 16th, services start at 9:00am  
Candle lighting: TBA  
Rosh Hashanah Day 2, September 17th, services start at 9:00am

Kol Nidrei, September 24th. 6:15pm  
Candle lighting before Kol Nidrei  
Yom Kippur, September 25th, services start at 9:00am  
Torah reading 11:45 am  
Yizkor 12:35pm  
Havdala 7:36pm

We will soon be announcing a new website!

#### **Shabbos Candle Lighting Times:**

August 4 - 7:51pm  
August 11 - 7:43pm  
August 18 - 7:35pm  
August 25 - 7:26pm

#### **Rabbi Litt’s Shabbos Schedule:**

August 26th

B<sup>TM</sup>  
CHABAD WILLIAMSBURG VA

# HIGH

*Holidays*

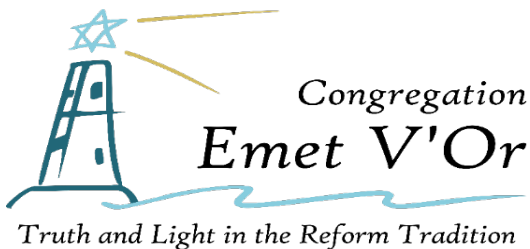
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**ROSH HASHANA**  
SEPTEMBER 15-17

**YOM KIPPUR**  
SEPTEMBER 24-25

For more information visit:

[WWW.CHABADWILLIAMSBURG.ORG](http://WWW.CHABADWILLIAMSBURG.ORG)



Office.CEVO@gmail.com  
www.emetvor.com  
757-952-3737

Rabbi Scott Gurdin  
Cantorial Soloist Dr. Jonathan Rathsam  
Musical Accompanist Dr. Ben Corbin

## Shabbat Services

*Erev Shabbat services are held Friday evenings at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.*

**August 4<sup>th</sup>** – Lay led services

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** – Rabbi led services

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** – Lay led services

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** – Cantor led services

**September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Shabbat in the Home

## Special Events & Other News

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** – Board Meeting (Zoom)

**Religious school news** – If you'd like to sign your child up for religious school or the AlefBeit program (1-5 year olds) for the 2023-24 year, please email us at [office.CEVO@gmail.com](mailto:office.CEVO@gmail.com). Religious school starts on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CEVO High Holidays** schedule will be as follows:

September 15<sup>th</sup> – Rosh Hashana eve at 6:30 PM

September 16<sup>th</sup> – Rosh Hashana service at 10:00 AM

September 24<sup>th</sup> – Kol Nidre service at 6:30 PM

September 25<sup>th</sup> – Yom Kipper service at 9:30 AM

All are welcome to visit! Our location:  
101 Production Drive, Suite 101, Yorktown, VA 23693

[fb.me/CEVOcommunity](https://fb.me/CEVOcommunity)

# 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!*

We welcome Rabbi David Eligberg, who will begin his tenure as our new rabbi this July. He and his wife, Jodi, look forward to meeting our Rodef Sholom family and the Jewish community of the Virginia Peninsula.



We wish Rabbi Gilah Dror all the best as she looks ahead to her retirement.



## In-Person and Zoom Services

Minyan: Mondays & Thursdays @ 7:45am

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays @ 6:00pm

Shabbat Morning Services: Saturdays @ 9:30am

*Please see our website for more information.*

Contact the office for Zoom information: [office@rodefsholomtemple.org](mailto:office@rodefsholomtemple.org)

401 City Center Blvd. - Newport News, VA, 23606 - 757-826-5894 - [rodefsholomtemple.org](http://rodefsholomtemple.org)

Temple Sinai  
11620 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, VA 23601  
(757) 596-8352



### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Friday, August 4th @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 12th @ 10:00am - Shabbat Service, followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Saturday, August 19th @ 10:00am - Shabbat Service, followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Friday, August 25th @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Contact Rabbi Sokol at [rabbiseverine@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiseverine@gmail.com) or (757) 268-6951 if you are interested in attending services.





# Is Barbie Jewish? The Complex Jewish History of the Doll, Explained

From an astronaut to a doctor, Barbie can be anything. Even a Jew.

Haaretz | Jewish World

Long before the craze over the new “Barbie” movie, most people could conjure an image of the doll: She was the beauty standard and the popular girl, a perky, white, ever-smiling brand of Americana.

She was also the child of a hard-nosed Jewish businesswoman, Ruth Handler, whose family fled impoverishment and antisemitism in Poland. Some see the original Barbie as Jewish like Handler and a complex symbol of assimilation in the mid-20th-century United States.

The doll’s latest revival comes in Greta Gerwig’s Barbie movie, written by Gerwig and Noah Baumbach. Barbie features a star-studded cast that includes Margot Robbie as Barbie, Ryan Gosling as Ken and Will Ferrell as a fictional CEO of Mattel. But this in-crowd doll was born from an outsider. Here’s its Jewish history:

## The origin story

Ruth Handler was born in 1916 in Denver, Colorado, the youngest of 10 children. Her father, Jacob Moskowitz (later changed to Mosko) had escaped conscription in the Russian army, like many Jews, at the turn of the century, and landed in the United States in 1907. Her mother Ida, who was illiterate, arrived the next year in the steerage section of a steamboat. Jacob was a blacksmith and moved the family to Denver, where new railroads were being built.



Ida was sickly by the time she gave birth to Ruth, so the baby was sent to live with her older sister Sarah. It was in Sarah’s Jewish community of Denver, when Ruth was 16 years old, that she met Izzy Handler at a Jewish youth dance. She fell in love immediately with Izzy, a penniless art student.



At age 19, Ruth decided to drop out of the University of Denver and move to Los Angeles, where she found a job as a secretary at Paramount Studios. Izzy soon followed her.

“As they drove across the country, she asked him to change his name to Elliot,” said Robin Gerber, a biographer who wrote *Barbie and Ruth: The Story of the World’s Most Famous Doll and the Woman Who Created Her*.

“She had felt the antisemitism at that time, in the 1930s, and she really felt that they’d be better off with a more Americanized name.”

The couple never renounced their Judaism. On the contrary, they eventually helped found Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles and became longtime contributors to the United

Jewish Appeal.

Against the pleadings of her family, Ruth married Elliot in 1938. She continued working at Paramount, while he enrolled at the Art Center College of Design and took a job designing light fixtures — but they quickly became collaborators. Elliot began making pieces from Lucite in their garage, such as bookends and ashtrays, and Ruth was thrilled to sell them. They were complementary business partners: Elliott was a quiet creative who shied away from ordering in a restaurant, while Ruth was vivacious and unafraid, a risk-taker who said her first sale felt like “taking a drug,” according to Gerber.



World War II challenged their business, as President Franklin Roosevelt restricted plastics to military use. Together with their friend Harold “Matt” Matson, the Handlers pivoted to making wooden picture frames and dollhouse furniture. They found success and named their company Mattel, a combination of Matt and Elliot’s names.

In 1946, Matson sold his share and Ruth Handler became the first president of Mattel. The company soon branched into toys. Since the design department was entirely male, many of its early toys targeted little boys.

One day, while watching her daughter Barbara — who would become Barbie’s namesake — Ruth had a new idea. She observed that Barbara and her friends were playing with paper dolls and pretending to be adult women. In the 1950s, the only dolls on the market were baby dolls, presuming that girls wanted to play being mothers. But Barbara and her friends wanted to play being the dolls.

“She completely shifted the way we buy toys,” said Gerber. Mattel sold 350,000 Barbies in its first year. Striving to keep up with demand, the company released her boyfriend in 1961 and named him after the Handlers’ son, Kenneth.

## Is Barbie feminist? Sexist? Assimilationist? Jewish?

Handler created Barbie in 1959, when many Jews were wrestling with the concept of assimilation. Although they continued to face discrimination in the postwar period, they also had newfound security — a life they had never identified with, according to Emily Tamkin, the author of *Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities*. Suddenly, like so many others, they were moving to suburban, white-picket fence America — Barbie territory.

Continued on page 18

So much like the iconic fashion of Ralph Lauren, a Jewish designer who changed his last name from Lifshitz, or the Christmas Carols of Irving Berlin, a Russian Jewish immigrant born Israel Beilin, Barbie would paradoxically become core to the American ideal that Jews were seen to assimilate into, said Tamkin.

“The thinking goes, if you’re safe and secure and in suburbia, is that really an authentic Jewish life?” Tamkin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

“And while they’re having this communal and individual struggle, Ruth Handler really enhances the Americana that they have this ambivalence about.”

But was the original Barbie actually Jewish herself? Susan Shapiro, the best-selling author of *Barbie: 60 Years of Inspiration*, thinks so.



“I think Ruth just assumed that Barbie reflects her, in a certain way,” Shapiro told Kveller in 2019. “Barbie was supposed to be all-American, and I think Ruth really considered herself to be very assimilated in America. But she did face antisemitism at Paramount Pictures, and her family fled Europe because of antisemitism.”



The doll doesn’t fit the rubric of stereotypes about Ashkenazi appearance” said Gerber. (Non-white Barbie ethnicities were not introduced until the 1980s.)

Tiffany Shlain, who made a 2005 short documentary “The Tribe” about the history of Jews and Barbie, is herself a blond, blue-eyed Jewish woman (who wrote the film with her husband, serendipitously named Ken Goldberg). She was often told that she didn’t “look Jewish.”

“Right now, we’re in a real renaissance of seeing all the different ways Jews look, and there’s no ‘look,’ there’s no one ideology,” Shlain said.

Regardless of what American buyers think, Barbie has been labeled “Jewish” by discriminatory bans. In 2003, she was temporarily outlawed by Saudi Arabia’s religious police. Iran has also repeatedly cracked down on the sale of Barbies since declaring them un-Islamic in 1996.

**Will the new movie address any of this?**

Gerwig’s collaborator (and partner) Baumbach is Jewish but doesn’t often reference that fact in his movies, which include *The Squid and the Whale* and *Marriage Story*. The film features a few Jewish cast members, including Hari Nef, a trans actress and model who has appeared in shows such as *Transparent*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *The Idol*.

The wide diversity of the cast — which features several different actors playing versions of Barbie and Ken — also seems to be a commentary on Barbie’s white, all-American roots.

“We were able to cast people of different shapes, sizes, differently abled, to all participate in this dance — all under this message of: You don’t have to be blonde, white, or X, Y, Z in order to embody what it means to be a Barbie or a Ken,” said actor Simi Liu, who plays one of the Kens.

*Article edited for space*



# PIANO

## LESSONS

For beginners and advanced students

**Ellen Hockman**  
**757-869-9811**

Red Cross Blood Drive  
in the UJC Lobby

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15th

10am-3pm

Visit [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org) to schedule  
an appointment.

All donors will receive a \$10 e-card to a movie merchant

Questions? Email Sara:  
[straster@ujcvp.org](mailto:straster@ujcvp.org)



### **Kibbitz and Create**

Thursday, August 31st, 10am-12pm

Join our group at the J for a morning of snacks and crafts.

*All fiber arts crafts welcome!*

**RSVP to Jessi Malkin: [jmalkin@ujcvp.org](mailto:jmalkin@ujcvp.org)**



### **Golda Sneak Peak Screening**

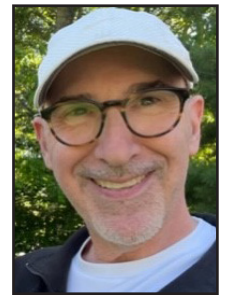
Wed Aug. 23rd

*Film screening and Q&A with Helen Mirren.*

**For movie theatre locations and movie times, visit:**

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/GOLDA/>

## *Strategic Planning* **Committee** - *Steve Marks*



We just observed Tisha B'Av in remembrance of the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem.

There was a Rabbinic tale that the destruction of the Second Temple was caused by baseless hatred of one Jew against another. This message, meaning, and impact are as relevant and compelling as ever. It still speaks to us of the need for Jewish unity and our need to love each other more and judge each other less.

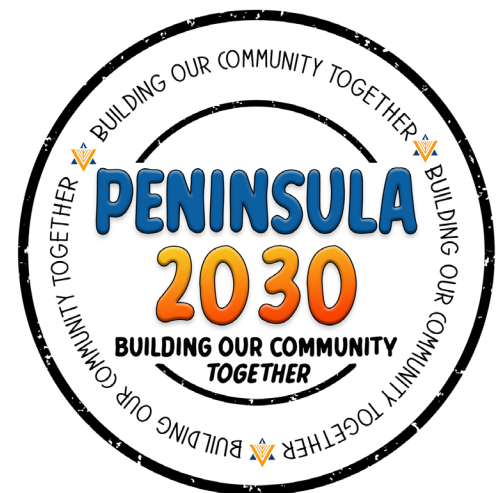
Five days after Tisha B'Av, the Hebrew calendar grants us a beautiful and unique opportunity to put this thought into practice in Tu B'Av (the fifteenth of Av) with Chag HaAhava, the Holiday of Love. This year Tu B'Av begins on the evening of August 1. According to Jewish tradition, Tu B'Av is a day of joy, love, solidarity and respect for others. This a great day for weddings, commitment ceremonies, renewal of vows, or proposing. It is a day for enhancing current relationships or defining anew what you are looking for in a partner.

Here at the UJC we strive to strengthen our community while seeking to add new and vital connections. In order to facilitate this, we have initiated the endeavor of strategic planning. For this to be successful, we need to hear everyone's voices. Each person has a unique background and worldview, and listening to diverse voices fosters effective communication and understanding. When we listen to others, we gain insights into their perspectives, experiences, and emotions— which helps build empathy and meaningful connections.

**Please help us in this project. Please let us hear your voice. When you are called, please share your thoughts. When you receive a survey, please respond. Please help us build our community together.**

Steve Marks

Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee





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# UJCVP Community August 2023 Calendar

**Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool  
4:30pm - Glendale Food Truck  
6:45pm - Water Aerobics

**Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
11 am - Glendale Pool

**Friday, Aug. 4, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool  
6:30pm - Water Aerobics

**Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023**

1pm - Glendale Pool

**Monday, Aug. 7, 2023**

1pm - Glendale Pool  
6:30pm - Water Aerobics  
7pm - 20/30 Music Bingo

**Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool  
6pm - 20/30 On the Lawn

**Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
11 am - Glendale Pool  
6:30pm - Water Aerobics

**Friday, Aug. 11, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool  
7pm - Glendale Floats & Floats

**Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023**

1pm - Glendale Pool  
2pm - PJ Library Dip Into Summer

**Monday, Aug. 14, 2023**

1pm - Glendale Pool

**Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023**

10am - Red Cross Blood Drive  
11 am - Glendale Pool

**Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
11 am - Glendale Pool

**Friday, Aug. 18, 2023**

LAST DAY OF CAMP CHAVERIM  
11 am - Glendale Pool  
9pm - Glendale Adult Night

**Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023**

1pm - Glendale Pool

**Monday, Aug. 21, 2023**

1pm - Glendale Pool

**Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool  
6pm - 20/30 Disc Golf

**Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
11 am - Glendale Pool  
6pm - Break & Make

**Friday, Aug. 25, 2023**

LAST DAY OF SARFAN SUMMER SESSION  
11 am - Glendale Pool

**Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023**

11 am - Glendale Pool

**Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023**

10am - 20/30 Beach Clean Up  
1pm - Glendale Pool

**Monday, Aug. 28, 2023**

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED  
1pm - Glendale Pool

**Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023**

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED  
11 am - Glendale Pool  
4:30pm - Glendale Food Truck

**Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023**

UJC CLOSED  
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED  
11 am - Glendale Pool

**Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023**

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED  
10am - Kibbitz & Create  
10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
11 am - Glendale Pool

