



Sarfan Center 5K
Race
Page 7



Padded Pearl Party
Page 8



UJC Purim Carnival
Page 12

Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

March 2024/5784



HAPPY PURIM FROM
the good, the bad and the ugly!

UJC PURIM CARNIVAL ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH!
-- MORE INFO ON PAGE 12 --

Contents

Departments:

- Fund Donations2
- Annual Campaign3
- Education Corner 6-7, 14
- Area Congregations 16-19
- Jewish Family Services21

Features

- VA Peninsula Jewish Film Fest 9
- 2024 Jewish Advocacy Day.... 10-11
- We Are the Story 14-15
- Comedy Night20
- JFNA Women's Philanthropy22

Jewish Family Services Fund

In memory of Peg Goldenberg, mother of Bonnie Kay Marks

Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum

Program Pushke Fund

In honor of a longtime friend

Martha & Tsvi Katz-Hyman

Waters Media Resource Center Fund

In memory of Norman Katzenberg

Sandy & Howard Waters



THE WELLNESS CONNECTION

Wednesday, March 6th | 6:30pm

Join Ariel Tal as we are guided through a mindful meditation.

Passport Members: Free
Community Members: \$12/person
More info & RSVP at ujcvp.org
Questions? Email carmela@ujcvp.org

Coastal
VIRGINIA
Magazine
BEST of
Readers' Choice
AWARDS
2024

VOTE NOW
at bestof.coastalvirginiamag.com
#covabestof

**Vote now
through
March 4th!**

Sarfan Early
Childhood Center
for Best Child
Development
Center

Camp Chaverim
for Best Summer
Camp

Campaign Corner - Jessi Malkin



As I am writing this article, two hostages have been rescued and reunited with their families. Fernando Marman and Louis Har are back home. I pray that more hostages are back with their families by the time this issue hits your mailboxes. I pray that this war will end without another one beginning and with minimal lives lost. Like you, I have prayed so much for our Holyland since October 7.

Growing up, Israel was a magical land that no one in my family had ever visited. I had a longing to go and my parents were worried I would never come home. That might be why they were OK with me going on a JCC teen tour... they knew at 17 I would have to return home (even if our tour leader had to drag me). Luckily for my parents, my relationship with Israel was more of a crush rather than true love. A meaningful yet short relationship, I will always care about her and love her, but she's meant for shorter vacations and not the long haul. I do long to visit again, and in time I will.

It's hard to believe we are approaching seven months of this nightmare. Still glued to our news apps and still hoping, praying, and needing to hear good news. As I have said before, I am humbled by the outpouring of local support. I am even more overwhelmed by community members Rachel Smith and Marissa Risk, who dropped everything to fly to Israel and volunteer during this time of turmoil. It's something I could not bring myself to do. For Rachel, this was her first trip to Israel and she went because she had to. She needed to be there. Marissa described a similar need "to help and take action."

To them, I send hugs and a huge תודה רבה (thank you very much)!

I extend the same to all of you who have supported Israel from the Peninsula by funding her ongoing recovery efforts. Our partnership with JFNA (Jewish Federations of North America) has allowed us to combine our \$720,000 with other communities to enable us to provide an amazing amount of humanitarian relief. As of the February 8, JFNA has raised a combined \$783,275,475, and 45% of those dollars have been distributed for use in the following categories: lifeline services (52.6%), economic relief and recovery (24.6%), medical and trauma relief (18.9%), community resilience and rebuilding (3.9%). The remaining 55% of funds raised will continue to be made available as needs change. One hundred percent of these funds will be used for humanitarian aid through Israel non-profit organizations.



Thank you for all you have done to support Israel, through our Israel Relief Fund and our Annual Campaign, which continues to support Israel, Ukraine and other communities in need across the globe. As for my high school crush, I hope to return to her warm embrace soon. Hopefully before the end of 2024.

If you are interested in joining the UJC on a mission to Israel, please reach out! We are in the early stages of planning and would love for you to join us.

Newport News City Council Refrains from Considering Israel Ceasefire Resolution



The February Newport News City Council meeting turned contentious as residents used the public forum to urge the local government to voice support for a ceasefire resolution in the Israel – Hamas war. Proponents of the ceasefire resolution painted their hands red to symbolize “blood on their hands,” accusing the city leadership of not taking a stand.

Pro-Palestinian speakers challenged Mayor Phillip Jones for his participation in a vigil organized by the UJCVP for the victims of the brutal October 7th terror attack. Held just days after the terror attack, the vigil brought the Jewish community together in mourning for the 1,200 murdered and in prayer for the safe return of the more than 240 kidnapped, including children, infants and elderly.

Speakers also falsely accused the American Israel Education Foundation of contributing to Jones’s campaign. City spokesperson Kim Bracy clarified that the in-kind donation covered the cost of Jones’ educational trip to Israel in July. “Our City Council operates with the utmost of integrity,” she said. “When issues come before them, they weigh the information, and they make decisions based on what is in the favor of their constituents. So again, this was not a campaign donation, and it had no influence on any decisions made by members of Council.”

Across the country, Pro-Palestinian and allied groups are actively working to urge city councils around the country to pass resolutions calling for a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas. In many cases,

the resolutions are one-sided and contain highly inflammatory language that demonizes Israel. While these resolutions generally have no direct legislative impact, they provide groups hostile to Israel the opportunity to deliver their messages to the public, influence the thinking of local elected officials, and create a momentum that could impact other decision-makers.

Amidst the growing pressure on Newport News city leadership to issue a ceasefire resolution, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the UJCVP mobilized to share with City Council members the perspective of the local Jewish community and voice opposition to a ceasefire resolution.

“Newport News City Council should be spending their limited, precious time discussing important local issues,” shared Eric Maurer, Executive Director of the UJCVP. “This is a foreign policy issue on which the City of Newport News has no official business taking a position on. And it will risk creating very real and very unnecessary division within this community.”

“Those who are calling for a ceasefire before Hamas is removed from power and the hostages are freed are strengthening a terrorist group and falsely painting Israel as the aggressor in this war that was forced upon them,” added Maurer.

The Newport News City Council meeting was attended by leadership from the Jewish community, including the UJCVP and local synagogues.

In her public comment, UJCVP President Wendy Eisner expressed that “we abhor the loss of innocent life, whether Jewish or Arab, Israeli or Palestinian. War is horrible. I want the war to end. However, the only chance for peace begins with the end of Hamas’ rule. An immediate ceasefire without the hostages released and Hamas removed from power would guarantee future war, bloodshed and suffering by both Israelis and Palestinians.”

The Newport News City Council refrained from considering a city ceasefire resolution.



DINNER & DISCUSS
GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES
Monday, March 18th | 6:00pm
Join Nathan Brauner to learn tips and tricks for gardening in small spaces.

Passport Members: Free
Community Members: \$12/person
More info & RSVP at ujcvp.org
Questions? Email carmela@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

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



Kibbitz & Create

Thursday, March 28th
10am-12pm

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

RSVP at ujcvp.org
Questions? Email Jessi Malkin
jmalkin@ujcvp.org

Give hope this spring.

Give blood.



American Red Cross



Red Cross Blood Drive

in the UJC Lobby

Wednesday, March 20th
10am-2pm

National Blood Shortage!
Blood donors of all blood types are urgently needed.

Visit ujcvp.org to schedule an appointment

Questions? Email Sara Traster
straster@ujcvp.org

Education **Corner**

Director of Education & Program Development, Carmela Malkin Kuhn

Sarfan Center Assistant Director, Naioki Wood

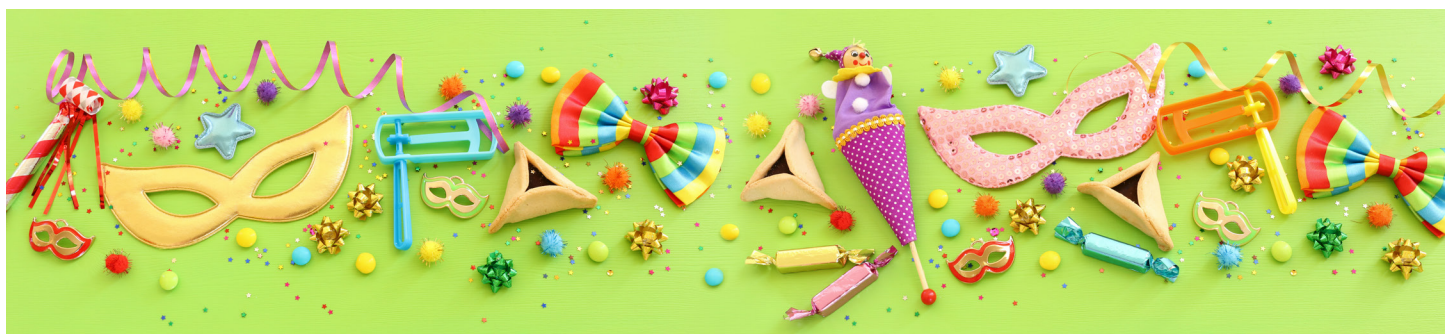


Each year, along with our community-wide UJC Super Sunday event, the UJC hosts a concurrent Super Sunday Joint Sunday School morning on our campus. This year, giving deference to Israel, we had an educational morning learning about our Jewish Homeland.

We welcomed 25 students from our local synagogues and had a very creative, enjoyable morning. With the assistance of our very talented teachers, we had the following classroom activities:

- Welcome and singing with Rabbi Severine. Rabbi Severine gave a very wonderful lesson about the meaning of the words in her beautifully written song "Yerushalayim." Song sheets were handed out and we all joined her in singing this beautiful tribute to Israel.
- Classroom 1: Sands of Israel, led by Ms. Gavrielle Bargash. Discussion about Israel and the sandy desert as well as the creation of a commemorative, colored sand bottle.
- Classroom 2: Let's Learn about Israel, led by Mrs. Bogie and Mr. Joseph Edouard, who created an amazing map of Israel, complete with interactive activities. They also played a wonderful game of Jewpardy.
- Classroom 3: Fun & Dance Israel Style, led by Mrs. Danile Spokony. More facts about Israel, complete with learning some Israeli dance moves.

Overall, our morning was very well received, and we are grateful to all the community educators who promoted this event to their congregations.



Education Corner



Mark your calendars and pull out those snazzy running shoes for the Sarfan Centers 38th Annual 5K/1 Mile Fun Run, an enjoyable family event organized by our incredible Sarfan Center Parent Committee.

Race day will include bounce house amusements, popcorn, snow cones, and the cutest 50-yard kids mad dash you won't want to miss!

Visit our website to learn more about how you can become a sponsor, donate, or register to run/walk:
<https://ujcvp.org/sarfan-center-5k>

When: Sunday, May 19th 2024

Where: Mariners' Museum

The course will start and finish on the Mariners' Museum Southern Route (across from Warwick High School). Williams Field location.

Summer Camp Chaverim



Teens can have fun at camp too!

Camp Chaverim is giving our youth the reins this summer through our Teens As Leaders

program. We are challenging 8th-10th graders to get out of the house and come enjoy the summer sun with us! Teen campers will gain counselor experience as well as the confidence to develop their own unique leadership style. Each week Ms. Gavrielle, UJC Youth Coordinator, will bring a new set of creative activities, leadership-building workshops, Mitzvot Project ideas, and off campus trips. The goal for our TAL group is to offer our community teens opportunities and space to put their passion to action.

**Take on the summer heat and share your voice with the community.
Let's stand TAL together!**

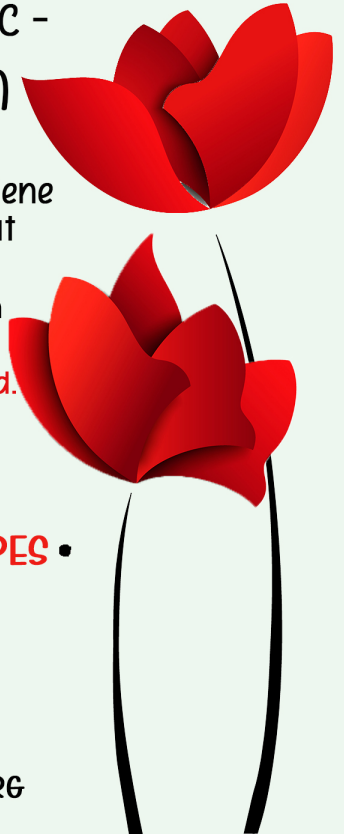
ujcvp.org/camp-chaverim



PADDED PEARL PARTY

- feminine hygiene supply drive at the UJC -
THURS. MARCH 14TH • 5:30PM

Please help the Pearl Society collect feminine hygiene products for *Her Padded Truth*, a local non-profit that provides products to women and girls who are homeless in the Hampton Roads area. *Her Padded Truth* believes every girl and woman should have access to proper menstrual hygiene products, which are affordable, safe, and readily available regardless of financial ability. **Period.**



For admission to the Pearl Padded Party, please bring a donation of any of the following:

- PADS • TAMPONS • PANTY LINERS • TRAVEL SIZE WIPES •
- SMALL PERIOD POUCHES/BAGS •

Help the Pearls put an end to period poverty!



MORE INFO / PARTY RSVP: UJCV.P.ORG

QUESTIONS? EMAIL SARA TRASTER • STRASTER@UJCV.P.ORG



Celebrating International Women's Month **Sunday, March 17, 2024 - 3:00pm at the UJC**

with conductors: Eric Reiff & Clint Correll

Featuring violinists Sarah Chenkin and Matthew Fan, Winners of the November 2023 YRSO Young Artists Concerto Competition

Advanced Tickets

Regular Admission: \$13
Student / Senior / Military: \$10
Passport Members: Free

Tickets at the Door

Regular Admission: \$15
Student / Senior / Military: \$12
Passport Members: Free

Please visit yrso.org for more information.

Questions? Email Angela Morris: amorris@ujcvp.org

Temple Beth El's 23rd Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival

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



THE NARROW BRIDGE
Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00pm
2022, 1 hr 16 min, Documentary

Director Esther Takac has worked as a trauma psychologist with bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families for nine years in a Jerusalem hospital. In *The Narrow Bridge*, she profiles four individuals from Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost a child or parent in the prolonged conflict. Despite considerable political and social resistance, and in the face of unspeakable loss, the four work to transform their grief into reconciliation, summoning untold courage to build bridges of friendship that might one day lead to peace.



VALIANT HEARTS
Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 2:00pm
2021, 1 hr 32 min, Drama

A true story of exceptional bravery and survival against all odds follows the odyssey of six Jewish children in August 1942 who are forced to take refuge where no one will ever think to look for them: amidst the Louvre Museum artworks hidden in the Château de Chambord.

*All films are free.
Light desserts and 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



Pearl Society Challah Bake Sale

Pre-order now through March 18th.

Challah orders will be made FRESH and ready for pick up at the UJC on March 21st & 22nd.

To Order:

visit ujcvp.org --> News & Events drop down --> Pearl Bake Sale
or find the pre-order link on our Facebook page



More than 250 Convene in Richmond for Jewish Advocacy Day

Before the sun had a chance to fully rise, members of the Virginia Peninsula Jewish community rose to take action at the state capitol in Richmond on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Nearly 40 participants, the UJCVP's largest group for Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day, gathered to make their voices heard on issues important to the local community.

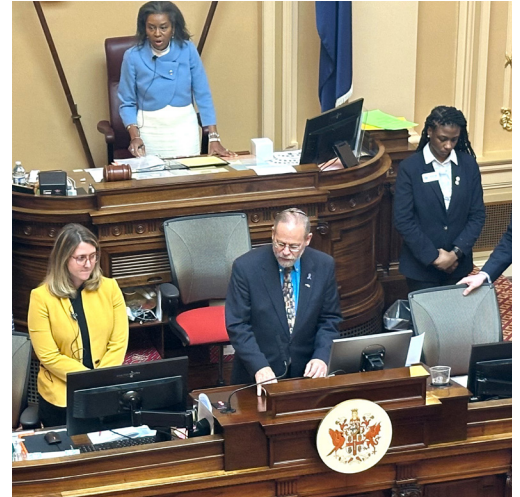
Virginia Jewish Advocacy is organized through the four Jewish Federations of Virginia, of which the UJCVP is one. Each Jewish Federation is the community planning, leadership and outreach arm of its Jewish community, which develops human and financial resources to meet the evolving and vital issues of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

On Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day, Jews from across the Commonwealth converged in Richmond and divided their regions' state legislators among themselves to meet with and share their legislative priorities. Dividing into small groups, the Virginia Peninsula legislative teams each engaged in lively discussions with various representatives in the House of Delegates and Senate. Serving as captains of the UJCVP legislative teams were Irene Jacobson, Lisa Stern, Richard Gordon and JCRC Chair Jeff Luckman.



A group of UJCVP community members meet with Delegate Chad Green.

A key issue that was discussed in our meetings was the surge of antisemitic incidents in our region and around the world following Hamas' massacre of Israelis on October 7. During the legislative meetings, we shared support for legislation, policies and initiatives that fight hatred targeting Jews and the Jewish community as well as all other forms of hatred and bigotry.



Rabbi David Eligberg of Rodef Shalom Temple leads the invocation in the Senate Chambers on Jewish Advocacy Day. The UJCVP was recognized by Senator Mamie Locke on the senate floor.

The UJCVP legislative teams voiced support for increasing funding for security measures and programs to support nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, at risk of hate crimes. We support Governor Youngkin's proposed 2024-2026 budget that provides an additional \$2 million in FY 2025 for the Department of Criminal Justice Services to make competitive grants to combat hate crimes, increasing the total fund to \$5 million. We also advocated for a language-only amendment that will allow nonprofits or institutions that are targets of or at risk of being targeted for hate crimes, to apply directly for security grant funding

We also voiced support of HB18 and SB120, which adds the word "ethnic" to the list of protected classes, which also includes race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and national origin. Adding ethnicity makes the hate crimes statute a more accurate and honest reflection of the reality of peoplehood. In the aftermath of 10/7, with the dramatic increase in antisemitism on college



A group of community members meet with Delegate Jeion Ward.

campuses, around the country, and around the world, it now is more important and clearer than ever that hate crime and discrimination laws include ethnic minorities, such as the Jewish people, who may not fit neatly into the language and words used to define other groups.



Jewish community members Bogie and Joseph Edouard pose with Attorney General Jason Miyares.

Sears and Attorney General Jason Miyares. UJCVP Board Member Lisa Stern gave a lively introduction to the overflowing room.

A highlight of the day was Rabbi David Eligberg of Rodef Sholom Temple leading the invocation in Senate Chambers. After his prayers, Senator Mamie

Following the group meetings, the combined delegations gathered to hear remarks from the top elected leaders, including Governor Glenn Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle

Locke formally welcomed the UJCVP delegation from the floor.

This whirlwind day of policy talk instantly created closeness within the lobbying teams as they worked together to figure out how to best communicate messages. Feelings of pride in being Jewish permeated throughout, as many people from across Virginia took the day off of work to unite to speak their minds about making Virginia a more tolerant, healthy, and prosperous place—not just for Jews, but for everyone.



UJCVP Board Member Lisa Stern (right) posed with Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears before Stern introduces Earle-Sears to the combined Jewish delegation.

Save the date, next year's Virginia Jewish Advocacy Day is January 29, 2025.





Purim Carnival '24

Sunday, March 24th | 12-3pm

COME TO THE J IN COSTUME AND ENJOY
BOUNCE HOUSES | AMUSEMENTS | GAMES & PRIZES
PHOTOBOOTH FUN | LUNCH & HAMENTASCHEN (FOR SALE)



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!



RSVP @ ujcvp.org



March 7th
Danielys Merino
Mazel Tot assistant teacher



March 23rd
Sasha Nasirova
Infant Perakhim lead teacher



March 26th
Selena Armstrong
Mazel Tot assistant teacher



March 27th
Sara Traster
Marketing Director, Program Team



March 30th
Lysie McIlhinney
Chaverim 3-year-olds lead teacher



SKY'S THE LIMIT
YOGA CO.

OOZLEFINCH
YOGA ON TAP

20/30 YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Yoga @ Oozlefinch Brewery
Sun. Mar. 10th | 10:30-11:30am
*Cost to attend is donation based (\$5 min.)

Open Mic Night @
Cure Coffeehouse NN
Thurs. Mar. 21st | 7-9pm

RSVP at ujcvp.org
Questions? Email straster@ujcvp.org

cure
NEWPORT NEWS

United Jewish
Community of VA

SPRING
Bazaar

Get a jumpstart on Spring!

SUNDAY
March 10, 2024
11AM to 4PM

FREE TO ATTEND

United Jewish Community Center
401 City Center Blvd
Newport News, VA

4eventplanning.com/ujcspringbazaar

Give your child the
gift of a Jewish
overnight experience,
with up to \$1000 off!

one happy
camper

Contact Jessi Malkin
for more info:
jmalkin@ujcvp.org

**THIS WAY TO AN
UNFORGETTABLE
SUMMER**

We Are the Story by: Rabbi Gershon Litt



October 7th changed a lot about Jewish life in Israel and the diaspora. Conversations that used to be challenging have become even harder. Students have become confused, conflicted, and pulled by various narratives, not knowing what to think. Jewish students have experienced the rise of anti-Semitism on and off campus in unprecedented fashion. Students feel scared and intimidated about what to believe, where to go, and how to respond. This generation of college students are having to deal with anti-Semitism and anti-Zionist rhetoric as a reality and not just as a theory



Israeli flags at the Nova music festival site. Family and friends put flags and recently planted trees in memory of those killed and taken hostage.

While the rise of anti-Semitism and confusion about Israel is pervasive in the lives of students today, there is another equally powerful phenomenon. Jewish students, while confused about Israel and what is happening in Gaza, are searching for community, belonging, and meaning at a higher rate than in the past. Last academic year, Hillel at William & Mary engaged over 350 Jewish students on campus. As of February 1st, engagement is up over 25% from this time last year. Jewish students are looking for community and identity now more than ever and Jewish educators need to figure out how to meet that need in the most effective ways possible.

Last month, Taglit Birthright Israel chose 20 North Americans and 5 Israeli tour educators to participate

in an “Educators Forum.” This forum’s purpose was to bring experienced educators together to evaluate what changes or adaptations should be made to Birthright Israel in a post October 7th world. Should there be items added, subtracted, or modified on the trip that would give the participant a better experience? The job of this forum was to try and answer some of these questions, and I was lucky enough to be part of this prestigious group.

The seven days together were amazing. We spent an entire day on the border with Gaza. This was an opportunity that I will never forget. This is especially true as the affected communities will be rebuilding soon and the rawness of the experience will never be the same. The police tape will be taken down. The half-burned dolls and the melted bikes will be removed. The bullet-riddled mattresses and the ovens with holes made by machine gun fire will be vacated from the half-destroyed homes. The color-coded diagrams on the home exteriors illustrating if there was a dead Israeli or a dead terrorist inside will be washed off. The children’s bedroom that is missing a ceiling because it was blown off by an RPG will no longer exist. The ash still blowing in the streets will be hauled away. The raw evidence of the pogrom will soon be gone and only those relative few witnesses who saw the evidence of the atrocities, and those who were present on October 7th, will be able to personally attest to the horrors of this newest chapter of Jewish history.

October 7th, however, according to Dr. Zohar Raviv, International VP of Educational Strategy for Taglit Birthright Israel, is not a Jewish event. The atrocities, the murder, the pogrom, and the many cowardly and animalistic acts of October 7th were not “Jewish events.” The kidnapping of innocent men, women, and children into tunnels in Gaza were not “Jewish events.” The rape, torture, and cruelty of Hamas towards the Israelis and others they victimized was not a “Jewish event.”

Dr. Zohar Raviv spoke with our group in Israel and posited that the “Jewish event” in this instance is the way the Jewish people will respond to this tragedy, not the tragedy itself. Dr. Raviv taught that we should not allow ourselves to be defined by our terror-ridden history. We are defined by how we react to this history. How will we teach about it, learn from it, and become stronger because of it? Dr. Raviv challenged us to not stand amongst the ashes of the moment and weep, but to create the type of Jewish story that we, and future generations, can be inspired by. At this pivotal moment, how will we engage and inspire our students? How will we pivot our educational pedagogies as Jewish educators to match the reality of our times? What vision will we have that will inspire our younger generations to identify with, attach to, and care for the Jewish state?



Burned out houses in Kfar Aza in the children's village. Hamas entered the breaching point directly behind these houses where teenagers and young adults were living and attacked them, killing most and kidnapping some.

To answer this question, I believe that it is time to focus our attention on what our students are asking for. Today's Jewish students on campus are asking for belonging, community, identity, and meaning. We need to use October 7th, and the current conflict, as a springboard to allow our students to begin an internal investigation, not only a deep dive into Israeli history and politics. October 7th is not the story. The students are the story. Each Jew is the story, and it is our job to get back to basics and spread that message. October 7th was not only an attack on the Jews living on the Gaza border. It was an attack on every Jew worldwide. It facilitated the opportunity for often latent, yet ever-present, anti-Semitism to awaken again and be shown

clearly to young, Jewish adults most of whom, prior to October 7th, had never confronted real hate themselves. Recent times have shown us the true colors of our friends and it shed light on who our enemies are. Israel education today on campus has become, and should be, Jewish identity education where Israel is the educative catalyst for questions of connectivity and peoplehood.



Bullet holes in the wall at the site of the Nova music festival. These bomb shelters were used by attendees to try and hide but they became death traps when Hamas terrorists murdered everyone inside with bullets or grenades.

Jewish student engagement on campus is increasing like never before. Students are coming to us. What are we offering them? Are we, as those charged with influencing the identity and connectedness of the next generation of Jews, going to grasp on to and utilize this moment or we going to see it as another Jewish event that needs only to be memorialized for its own right? By creating interactive, educational programming focused on Jewish identity and attachment to The Land and personal, inspired Jewish practice I believe we can begin to answer this call. The Jews alive today are the real story of every tragedy that has befallen our people. Let us all play an active role in authoring our story for the future.

Rabbi Gershon Litt is the Executive Director of William & Mary Hillel as well as the advisor to Christopher Newport University and Old Dominion University.

The UJCVP is proud to support the Hillels at William & Mary and Christopher Newport University, and others throughout the Commonwealth, with an annual allocation to bolster Jewish life on college campuses.

ב"ה



SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES.



Services – 10:00AM



Light kiddish – 11:30 AM

ChabadWilliamsburg.org 757-929-4999

Congregation Adath Jeshurun
401 City Center Blvd., Newport News, VA 23606
Telephone # 757-930-0820 | Website: www.ajshul.com
Rabbi Gershon Litt, 757-559-1836



It is March and we are preparing to celebrate Purim. This year International Women’s Day coincides with the holiday of Shushan Purim, when Jews recall how Queen Esther enabled our Jewish ancestors to escape from genocide in ancient Persia. A fitting occurrence, since Queen Esther is the ultimate feminist hero. It reminded me of all of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers who made the decision to leave Eastern Europe and come across the ocean to an unknown world.

Their courage saved us from being destroyed. They were truly the Queen Esthers of our times.



March 16th Shabbos Lunch sponsored by Scott Wolf in memory of his parents.

Adath Jeshurun’s website is up and running.
Visit at: www.ajshul.com

Shabbos Candle Lighting Times:

March 1 - 5:42 pm
March 8 - 5:49 pm
March 15 - 6:55 pm
March 22 - 7:01 pm
March 29 - 7:07

Rabbi Litt’s Shabbos Schedule:
March 15, April 19, May 17



Congregation Emet V'Or

Truth and Light in the Reform Tradition

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.

- March 1** – Cantor led Shabbat service
- March 8** – Rabbi led service with cantorial and musical accompaniment
- March 15** – Lay led Shabbat service with musical accompaniment
- March 22** – Rabbi led service with musical accompaniment
- March 29** – Lay led Shabbat service

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

Special Events & Other News

Religious school date – March 10th (10-12 AM)
and March 24th (Purim Carnival 9-12AM)

CEVO Board Meeting – March 11th (Zoom)

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 24th. CEVO will be having our Purim Carnival from 9-12. Keep your eye out for more information.



fb.me/CEVOcommunity

At Peninsula Funeral Home, you'll find **No Hidden Fees.** **No Surprise Bills.**

Yes, funeral services are a time for remembering, but it's also a chance to celebrate life.

We offer the capability to stream live services, record them, project video in the chapel, and play a video in our visitation areas.



We can help. Call us today. **757-595-4424**

11144 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News

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THE TURBYFILL FAMILY SINCE 1927

www.peninsulafuneralhome.com



Theodore H. & Esther Beskin Memorial Scholarship Award

SCHOLARSHIP



OPPORTUNITY

Scholarship Application Available
Deadline to return application to the UJC is
Friday, May 10th, 2024

Established in 1959 in memory of beloved and outstanding humanitarians and leaders, the Theodore H. and Esther Beskin Memorial Scholarship Award is given annually to a worthy local Jewish senior high school student. The recipient is selected on the basis of outstanding achievement and diligence in academic, personal, and community endeavors, as well as other pertinent criteria.

Applications for the \$1000 scholarship are available online at ujcvp.org

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!*

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

HAPPY 
Purim
פורים שמח!

LIVE FROM RODEF SHOLOM TEMPLE

IT'S PURIM!

**SATURDAY
+ NIGHT**
Special
Purim
Edition



**We're on a
mission
from God!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23,
8:15 PM**

MA'ARIV AND MEGILLAH READING

**FEATURING: MA'ARIV BY SGT. PEPPERS LONELY
HEARTS CLUB BAND
WITH SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST, SIR ELTON JOHN**

Special For Children by Shevet HaShalom

Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 AM

Purim Service & Mini Megillah Reading

Purim Carnival at 12:00 PM

Temple Beth El of Williamsburg

600 Jamestown Road—www.tbewilliamsburg.org

HIAS' Sixth Annual Refugee Shabbat—March 15—17



TBEW will participate in HIAS' Sixth Annual Refugee Shabbat with a Scholar-in-Residence weekend on March 15 – 17. The weekend will feature three special guest speakers. On Friday night, at 7:30 pm, Stacy Kern-Scheerer, who runs the W&M Immigration Law Clinic, will speak during services. On Sunday at 2 pm, both Humaira Razuli, a local Afghan refugee who runs an Afghan women's justice organization, and Jessica Sapalio, who runs the WUU Journey to Asylum program, will speak.

Purim Celebration — March 23



The TBEW Purim Celebration will take place in person and on Zoom on Saturday night, March 23rd, starting at 7 pm. Please plan to join us, in person or online. Please come wearing a costume, and please bring your best homemade Hamantaschen for our famous Iron Chef Hamantaschen Bake-off. Also, please plan to share a spiel, and bring your inner performer with you to brighten our evening.

*We celebrate Jewish life all year!
Learn more at tbewilliamsburg.org*



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, March 1st, 5:00 p.m. – Abridged Shabbat Service, dinner & movie “American in Paris”
- Saturday, March 9th, 10:00 a.m. - Shabbat Service of Healing & light Kiddush luncheon
- Friday, March 15th, 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Oneg
- Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00 a.m.- Purim Shabbat Service & light Kiddush Luncheon
- Friday, March 29th, 10:00 a.m.- Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Oneg

Adult Education Program

Sunday, March 3rd, 10:00 a.m. - Come and join Joanna Homrighausen and Fred Levy at the Temple for an informal Torah discussion and a delicious bagel nosh! Zoom option available.

Passover Seder

Monday, April 22nd, 5:00 p.m.- For more information contact Mary Beth Colgan (757) 596-8352 by April 12th.

Religious School

Our Religious School fosters an inclusive social-emotional Jewish learning environment featuring innovative and fun programs in partnership with special institutions and educators. Check it out!

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

Temple Sinai Film Series

Jews in Hollywood: On the Screen, Behind the Scenes

Join us for this special program. Abridged Shabbat service followed by dinner and a film with a brief discussion led by Fred Levy!



American in Paris - 3/1 @ 5 pm - RSVP by Tuesday 2/27

The Princess Bride - 4/12 @ 5 pm - RSVP by Tuesday 4/9

Mr. Saturday Night - 6/7 @ 5 pm - RSVP by Tuesday 6/4

RSVP to Mary Beth:
admin@nnsinai.hrcoxmail.com
or (757) 596-8352



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @ujcup_nn and LIKE our Facebook page!

Pamela Rae Schuller Brings Comedic Advocacy to the Peninsula

Growing up with a disability is something comedian Pamela Rae Schuller not only came to terms with, she now travels all over the world, sharing her story on her own terms. Schuller aims to remind people to be more inclusive and kinder through the most powerful medium she knows: laughter.

The UJC, in partnership with BBYO and the UJC Youth Fund, was fortunate to host Pamela for an evening of comedy and storytelling on Saturday February 24th, and for a teen workshop the following morning.

Pam, all 4 foot 6 (and a half) inches of her, had the audience in stitches, as she referred to her stature, OCD and Tourette's Syndrome as her "triple threat" qualities. The nearly sold out UJCVP audience couldn't get enough of her stories, empathizing with her trials and laughing and applauding her successes, to the point of a standing ovation.



Sharing with our community youth, during their morning workshop, she spent so much of her adolescence feeling angry, alone and unclear of steps forward, and she



encouraged our teens to find what they love about themselves. She isn't afraid to bring up hard topics and encouraged the teens to ask her the hard questions, whether about her disabilities, depression or even dating.



Schuller embraces and loves what makes her different and challenges her audiences to do the same. "At some point in my life, I realized we've all got something," said Schuller. "I happen to bark. I grew up with a severe case of Tourette's. I lost control over my entire body and the noises that I made. I was out of school for years because of broken bones from Tourette's."

Along with being a professional comedian, Schuller holds a BA in Psychology and Youth Outreach Through the Arts, an MA in Child Advocacy and Policy, where she focused her studies on creating comedy and improvisational theater programs as a tool for youth with disabilities to improve self-advocacy

skills, and a certificate in Executive Coaching focused on leadership in the digital age from MIT. Schuller has become an internationally known disability and mental health advocate.



"I laugh every day," she said. "I mean, Tourette's is funny, it can be really funny. You don't have to laugh at it if you don't want to, but for me, it was a great coping mechanism. I still find humor every day."

.....

"Pamela gave a compelling and engaging discourse on embracing diversity and fostering an inclusive culture. Her talk aligned fully with the UJCVP mission to inspire a cohesive,



collaborative, and flourishing Jewish community where everyone feels belonging and connection."
-Steve Marks

Everyone I spoke to was so moved by the evening and genuinely enjoyed being together at the UJC. Pamela's message was a perfect reflection of what our community embodies - kindness, humor, inclusivity, and friendship.
-Mariel Focseneanu Karlin

"I really appreciated Pam's authenticity and unique perspective. She has this great way of combining advocacy and awareness-building into her comedy. It is respectful and mindful and intentional and so funny. And her message retains integrity. Not all comedians can juggle that. My family



is truly honored to be part of a community that recognizes Pam's relevance and value, and brought her here. It was a really fun night!"
-Denille Francis

Jewish Family Services - Libby Batten



Celebrating Passover is a beautiful tradition that requires special food for one to appropriately observe the holiday. Jewish Family Services is requesting donations of food items (listed below), grocery gift cards, and/or volunteer time.

The gift bags will be ready for volunteers to pick up at the UJCVP April 16th-18th. If you would like to volunteer to deliver gift bags, please contact Libby. Thank you for your support!

Food Items Needed:

Matzah (Regular or Egg)

Gefilte Fish

Matzah Ball Mix

Macaroons

Mandelbrot

Candied Fruit Slices

Or any other Passover items

Deadline to bring in items is Friday, April 12th.

Items may be dropped off at the UJC

Your donation will provide Passover meals for families that are living on a limited budget or are homebound.



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@ujcvc.org or Martha Vogel, UJC Office Manager: 757-930-1422 mvogel@ujcvc.org

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BY APRIL 30!

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

Adult Pickup Basketball

Saturdays @ 8:00pm in the UJC Gym

All experience levels welcome!

For more info, text Eric: 617-780-2916

JFNA Names Jenny David to National Women's Philanthropy Board

The UJCVP is excited to announce Jenny David's membership to Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) National Women's Philanthropy (NWP) Board. Jenny is one of 30 leaders to be selected for the NWP Board, after a rigorous and competitive nominating and application process.

Guided by the tradition of tzedakah and tikkun olam, NWP of JFNA is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity, and thriving future for local communities, Israel, and the Jewish people. The National Women's Philanthropy Board engages 180 women and creates a space for passionate and committed women to participate in advanced leadership development opportunities, learn key details about priority areas for the Federation movement and world Jewry, and more. NWP board members support their local Federation, the Jewish Federations of North America, and the global Jewish community, while advancing the mission and initiatives of National Women's Philanthropy and Jewish Federations of North America. Current National Women's Philanthropy board members represent over five dozen Federations, including the UJCVP.

Known for her passionate and energetic leadership, Jenny will bring her experience to this new position through JFNA. Currently a member of the UJCVP Board of Directors and chair of the annual campaign, Jenny is also a past president of the UJCVP and

past member of JFNA's National Young Leadership Cabinet.

"We are immensely proud that Jenny will be the first member from the Virginia Peninsula to serve on the National Women's Philanthropy Board," shared UJCVP President Wendy Eisner. "Jenny is a fierce advocate for flourishing Jewish community, on both the local and the national level, and has dedicated her time to strengthening our community."

National Women's Philanthropy engages thousands of Jewish women across the United States each year and raises over \$200 million for Federation campaigns annually. Through donations and hands-on community service, its members fight domestic violence, improve women's health and nutrition, provide shelter to vulnerable children, and protect at-risk seniors.

To learn more about Women's Philanthropy at the UJCVP, contact Jessi Malkin, Director of Campaign and Community Impact: jmalkin@ujcvp.org



National Women's Philanthropy Board



Recipes For Purim

SPARKLING RASPBERRY HAMENTASCHEN

The fragrance of berries simmering away with a bit of sparkling wine is heavenly. The whole house smells amazing. This recipe makes a fair amount of jam which can be frozen or canned.

INGREDIENTS (makes 7-8 cups jam and 12 cookies)

SPARKLING BERRY JAM

- 5 oz sparkling wine, such as Prosecco or Champagne
- 1 1/2 lbs raspberries, frozen work well
- 1/2 lb strawberries, frozen work well
- 4 1/2 c sugar
- pinch of sea salt

HAMENTASCHEN DOUGH

- 1/4 c sugar
- 1/2 c butter
- 1/2 c cream cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 c flour + more for rolling out dough

FOR ASSEMBLY

- 1 whole egg
- 2 tsp water
- 1 1/2 c Sparkling Berry Jam, chilled



PREPARATION

SPARKLING BERRY JAM

1. Simmer sparkling wine, raspberries, strawberries, sugar, and salt over medium heat until sugar dissolves.
2. Continue simmering, stirring occasionally, for 15-20 mins, until berries are broken up and fairly mushy (in a good way). If any scum appears on the surface, use a wooden or metal spoon to skim it off.



3. Test for set-point by placing a teaspoon full of jam on a plate and placing the plate in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. If the jam has developed a skin and is holding together, take off the heat and cool. If not, continue cooking for another 10 mins before testing for set-point again.

4. Cool completely before filling hamantaschen. Jam can be stored for up to 1 week in the refrigerator or frozen for up to 2 months.

HAMENTASCHEN DOUGH

1. Pulse sugar, butter, cream cheese, egg yolk, and vanilla in a food processor until combined.
2. Add flour and pulse until dough forms a ball.
3. Turn dough out onto counter and knead a few turns until smooth and elastic. Flatten into a disk and wrap in plastic. Chill for at least 1 hour and up to 2 days, or freeze for 1 month.



ASSEMBLY

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment
2. Whisk egg and water together and set aside.
3. Roll out dough on lightly floured surface. Cut into 3-inch circles.
4. Spoon a small amount of jam into center of dough. Lightly brush edges with egg wash. Form into triangle, being sure to pinch edges tightly together.
5. Place on lined baking sheet. Continue with remaining dough.
6. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

<https://jamiiegeller.com/recipes/sparkling-raspberry-hamantaschen/>





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UJCVP Community March 2024 Calendar

Tuesday, Mar. 5, 2024

4:30pm - Hebrew School
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness
6:30pm - Adult Hebrew Class

Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2024

6:30pm - Wellness Connection

Thursday, Mar. 7, 2024

11am - Grand Club/Bingo
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024

10:30am - 20/30 Yoga
11am-4pm - Spring Bazaar
Vendor Fair

Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2024

4:30pm - Hebrew School
6:30pm - Adult Hebrew Class

Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024

11am - Grand Club/Bingo
5:30pm - Padded Pearl Party

Sunday, Mar. 17, 2024

3pm - YRSO Concert

Monday, Mar. 18, 2024

6pm - Dinner & Discuss:
Gardening in Small Spaces

Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2023

4:30pm - Hebrew School
6:30pm - Adult Hebrew Class

Tuesday, Mar. 20, 2024

10am-2pm - Red Cross Blood
Drive
7pm - UJC General Board
Meeting

Thursday, Mar. 21, 2024

Challah Order Pick-Up
11am - Grand Club/Bingo
7pm - 20/30 Open Mic Night

Friday, Mar. 22, 2024

Challah Order Pick-Up

Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024

12-3pm - UJC Purim Carnival

Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2024

4pm - Hebrew School

Thursday, Mar. 28, 2024

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

HAPPY PURIM
חג פורים שמח

