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# Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

January 2023/5783



**SUPER SUNDAY 2023**  
*Help Us Grow*

Join us on January 29th to connect as a community to strengthen all we do.

Answer the call, email, or text to make your 2023 UJCVP Annual Campaign Commitment and help our community grow!

Volunteers needed to help on campus.  
More info at [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)

**Super Sunday Joint Sunday School**  
January 29th 2023 | 10am - 12pm  
Students will meet in the UJC Preschool Classrooms  
**Theme: Tu B'Shevat**



- Come learn about the importance and value of trees
- Make a tree birdhouse
- Enjoy the 7 species of snacks
- Plant some parsley for Pesach
- A fun morning of learning and community unity
- Bring non-perishable food items for the Jewish Family Service food pantry



## Babies & BAGELS

Sunday, Jan. 29th  
10:00am  
at the Sarfan Center

Morning activities & snacks for babies, toddlers, preschool age kids and their families!

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Mindful Monday  
Presents:  
Sound Bath with Lian  
Tuesday, Jan. 10th  
6:30pm



Passport Members - Free  
Non-Members - \$10/person  
Register at: [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)

## Jewish Family Services Fund

In recognition of the contributions of the staff in making the UJC what it is today  
Steve Marks

In honor of Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum  
Anonymous

## Linda Lavaty Appreciation Fund

Joanne & Richard Gordon  
Nellie & Neal Quesnel

## Mikveh Fund

Wishing Bob Frank a speedy recovery  
Meryl & Bob Kessler  
Janet & Gary Nachman  
In memory of loved ones  
Elizabeth Herbert

## UJC Preschool Fund

In memory of Sarah Deyong  
Jackie & Jim Batterson  
In memory of Jane Susan Frank  
Jackie & Jim Batterson  
In memory of Joe Frank  
Jackie & Jim Batterson  
Rhonda & Art Diamond  
In memory of David Oser  
Rhonda & Art Diamond

## UJC Youth Fund

In honor of Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum's daughter's engagement  
Joanne & Richard Gordon  
In honor of Lisa & Chuck Stern's new grandchild  
Wendy Eisner

## Ukraine Relief Fund

In memory of loved ones  
Elizabeth Herbert

## Unrestricted Endowment Fund

In memory of William C. "Bucky" Talbott  
Beth Stern

# Jewish Family Services - Libby Batten

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. Jewish Family Services Hanukkah Mitzvah Menorah was such a success due to the community's outpouring of giving.



This year, the Mitzvah Menorah included children from birth to 18 years of age. Because of your generosity, we were able to assist local Peninsula Jewish families in



financial need with gifts and gift cards for their children. Our UJCVP Jewish Family Services received donations from individuals, families, groups, congregations, and the Sarfan Center preschool. Boxes were filled with new clothing, winter coats, boots, shoes, books, games, toys, craft items and kits, art supplies, school supplies, Judaic decorations, and Hanukkah wrapping paper. Traditionally, preteens and teens have been a challenging group for gift giving, but our community came through with much appreciated gift cards. I can tell you the recipients of this program are very gracious and appreciative of everything that is given to their children and families!

Thank you again for the overwhelming support of the Mitzvah Menorah Hanukkah Gift Program.

.....

**A big thank you to Nancy Lazarus and her group at Riverside Neurology for collecting boxes and boxes of food for our Jewish Family Service food pantry!**



NCJ

**National Council of Jewish Women Book Club**

*Open to the entire community*

New Meeting Place: UJCVP

Wednesday, January 18th, 1:30pm

Discussion: *Our Darkest Night* by Jennifer Robson

Historical fiction, a heart-wrenching love story set in Italy during World War II

**Questions/RSVP: Lucy Sukman, [lmoomaw15@aol.com](mailto:lmoomaw15@aol.com) | 757-508-4353**

**4TH - 7TH GRADERS**

MEET YOUR PJ OUR WAY FRIENDS AT THE VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM PLANETARIUM



**1/14/23**

**PJ OW**

Field Trip

**DROP OFF AT VLM @ 6:45PM**

**PICK UP AT THE UJC @ 9PM**

PASSPORT MEMBERS: FREE!  
NON-MEMBERS: \$10 / KID

REGISTER @ [UJCVP.ORG](http://UJCVP.ORG)

ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER BY 1/11




**JCC Youth**

**PUT YOUR HATS ON**

AND CELEBRATE NATIONAL HAT DAY AT THE J!

**SATURDAY, JAN. 14TH, 7-9PM**

FOR K - 3RD GRADERS  
PASSPORT MEMBERS - FREE!  
NON-MEMBERS - \$10 / CHILD

REGISTER AT [UJCVP.ORG](http://UJCVP.ORG)



**Join in on the fun and get crafty with us!**

Swing by the J, pick up a jCraft To Go, take it home, and unpack your studio!

**Next Project: DIY Bath Bombs**

Pick Up: Thurs. January 26th, anytime from 3-5pm

**Program Passport Members - FREE!**

**Non-Members - \$12 / package**

Register for you craft kit at [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)

Questions? Email: [Naioki Wood \(nwood@ujcvp.org\)](mailto:Naioki Wood (nwood@ujcvp.org))  
or [Sara Traster \(straster@ujcvp.org\)](mailto:Sara Traster (straster@ujcvp.org))




# Education Corner

*Director of Education & Program Development,  
Carmela Malkin Kuhn*  
*Sarfan Center Assistant Director, Naioki Wood*



## A Hanukkah Celebration

Everyone at the Sarfan Early Childhood Center joined in on the Hanukkah fun! Our infants and toddlers wiggled to the sounds of music while our preschoolers sang of dreidels, Maccabees, and menorah lights. Together, we shared food, the gift of giving and the story of the Hanukkah miracle. The smell of latkes and jelly donuts still lingers in the building. As a special present to our school family, the teachers put together a beautiful Hanukkah slideshow presentation wishing our families a meaningful holiday season.



The Sarfan Center (and UJC) will be closed  
Monday, January 16th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day





**Lifelong Learning  
2023 Spring Program  
Night** by Elie Wiesel  
with instructor Steve Marks

**January 30 - March 3  
Tuesdays, 11am-12:15pm**

Dr. Steve Marks will delineate the historical context of the events described in Nobel Award winner Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*.

Dr. Marks will also integrate personal stories and photographs of his family's involvement in these events. Participants are encouraged to read *Night* prior to class (2006 version translated by Marion Wiesel).

*To register:*  
[lifelonglearning.cnu.edu](http://lifelonglearning.cnu.edu)

### **Blood Pressure Clinic**

Thursday, January 19th  
11:30am-12:30pm



Swing by the J to get your blood pressure checked with the nurses from Traditions Health

*FREE COMMUNITY EVENT*  
**Questions? Email Jessi Malkin:**  
[jmalkin@ujcvp.org](mailto:jmalkin@ujcvp.org)

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



**January 4**  
Amber Barnes  
Parparim 3-year-olds Teacher



**January 8th**  
Carmela Malkin Kuhn  
Director of Education & Queen Bee of the Program Team



**January 10th**  
Courtney Walden  
Tziporim 2-year-olds Teacher



**January 23rd**  
Corin Keller  
Tziporim 2-year-olds Teacher



## News From the Rising Tide Mikveh Consortium

As a member of the Rising Tide consortium, we in Newport News, are able to join Mikvaot with inclusivity and modern and traditional practices throughout the world. These are very exciting times for addressing personal, local, and international needs in a changing world.

**WHAT IS AN OPEN MIKVEH?** Lucy Marshall, director of operations for the Rising Tide Open Waters Mikveh network: “When I think of an open Mikveh, I think of it opening in two directions: (1) It honors all the traditional uses and also opens the ancient ritual to mark any meaningful life transitions; (2) It ensures Mikveh is accessible to all genders, abilities, ages, sexual orientations... everyone.”

**ISRAEL:** Havana Ner David, who runs the Shmaya Open Mikveh in Israel, talks about the local art hanging in their Mikveh rooms. She and Rachel Stock Spilker from Minnesota have co-authored and illustrated a new book for children about the Mikveh experience.

**DES MOINES:** Mayim Rabim is the newest Rising Tide Mikveh that opened on Nov. 20, 2022 (five years after being an Emerging Mikveh). This is the only Mikveh in Iowa. Rabbi Barton says the community is small but mighty! All Jewish members of the community have accessibility and inclusivity in the Mikveh experience, uniting the Jewish community.

**PORTLAND, OR:** Rachel’s Well Mikveh is the only up and running Mikveh in the consortium of over 36 Mikvaot worldwide, that is owned and run by the Jewish Federation. It has been running for five years and is open to the entire Jewish community.

**NEW YORK CITY:** Immerse NYC is the only open Mikveh in New York City, which opened in 2018, who partners with facilities across the New York Metropolitan area, to provide their inclusive Mikveh experience. Rachel Kunstadt, their director, says “the world is changing and I think Mikveh is the beautiful stream of water that will always be there - it’s whole and beautiful in a world of so much uncertainty.”



Our UJCV is a member of the consortium RISING TIDE, a national network devoted to opening the mikveh experience to the entire Jewish Community.

For more information, or with any questions, please contact Steve Shapiro,  
UJC Mikveh Chairman: [stevenishapiro@outlook.com](mailto:stevenishapiro@outlook.com)

# Executive Director's **Message** - *Eric Maurer*



How incredible it was to celebrate Hanukkah with so many of our community members in City Center! The energy was electric and it was inspiring to feel so many people coming together to share in the Hanukkah warmth. Hanukkah is all about the power of a little bit of light to dispel a lot of darkness. The menorah light reminds us that will is stronger than fear, love is stronger than hate and light is stronger than darkness.

On Hanukkah, the menorah light grows brighter and brighter as each additional candle is added. The nature of light is such that one flame can light many candles, and no matter how many candles the one flame lights, its own brightness is never diminished. We all have enormous power to brighten up the lives of those around us without diminishing our own brightness. On the contrary, it will make our own lives shine ever more brightly and ever more meaningfully.



I am so thankful for all the lamplighters in our own community, who share their light so generously and freely. This couldn't have been witnessed better than through our Jewish Family Service's Hanukkah gift drive. Our community came together in a big way to ensure that every family could celebrate the holiday with their children regardless of their circumstances. I applaud our community for stepping up in a big way and for our energetic JFS Director Libby Batten for leading the efforts.



Super Sunday is January 29th and I thank you in advance for taking our call and generously supporting our United Jewish Community. With your gift to the Annual Campaign, you help build, sustain and secure our Jewish community. You feed, comfort, and shelter the vulnerable; foster community and inspire new generations – here on the Virginia Peninsula, in Israel, Ukraine, and 70 countries worldwide. Thank you for doing good that goes everywhere.



May 2023 be brighter than ever and filled with much light. Happy New Year!

Eric

P.S. Have you volunteered yet for Super Sunday? Call or email our office to learn more about how you can help.





## Flicks and Food



Thurs. January 26th  
12:00pm

2021, Documentary, TV-PG  
1hr 19min

Before fast food we had something better. Our grandparents told us stories of gathering around communal tables, sharing their lives, their struggles, and their dreams with strangers at The Automat. In this long-awaited documentary, relive the phenomena of America's original and most beloved restaurant chain, through never before-seen archival footage and photos, and a cast including celebrity customers, company executives, historians, and families.

Passport Members - FREE  
Non-Members - \$10 / person

Visit [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org) to RSVP  
Includes Lunch



## PILATES CLASS at the J with instructor, Nicola Ashlin



**Class Schedule: Wednesdays**

**Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8**

**7:00 - 8:00pm**

Passport Members - Free! Non-Members - \$10 / person per class

Register at [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)

## UJC MINI SPONSORSHIPS

Do you have a business you'd like to promote?  
Become a UJC Program Sponsor!

### WHAT YOU'LL GET:

**\*Ad space in our UJC Newsletter**

(this thing that you're reading!)  
**\*A postcard / coupon / business card included in one of our take-home programs**

(can be your own design or created by us!)

**\*Your name / business name on marketing materials for the program you are sponsoring**

**\*Sponsorship Price: \$100**

**Contact Jessi Malkin:  
[jmalkin@ujcvp.org](mailto:jmalkin@ujcvp.org)  
for more info.**

**20/30  
SOMETHING  
YOUNG ADULT  
GROUP**

**LASER TAG  
SHOW DOWN**

WED. JAN 18TH  
6PM @ TAG TIME LASER

- PAY YOUR OWN WAY -

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

TAG TIME LASER  
14346 WARWICK BLVD.  
STE 420



**Camp  
Chaverim**

**Pajama  
PARTY**

Fashion Show

Sunday, January 8  
2 - 4pm

Drinks and snacks will be provided  
Drop off at the UJC Gym  
\$5 per camper

Register at: [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)

IF YOU CAN'T  
READ THIS,  
YOU MAY NEED  
CLASSES

**Introductory  
Adult Hebrew  
Reading Class**

with instructor,  
Carmela Malkin Kuhn



6 Weeks:  
Jan 17, 24, 31  
Feb 7, 14, 21  
6 - 7pm

Passport Members:  
**FREE**  
Non-Members:  
\$54 / person

Register at  
[ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)

**[Dinner  
AND Discuss]**

Wed. January 25th  
6:00pm

Passport Members - FREE  
Non-Members - \$12

Visit [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)  
to RSVP

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

**calm  
strips**

as seen on  
**shark  
tank**

lucy fuller  
administrative  
director

michael malkin  
founder + creator



# Newsletter Photo of the Month

Do you have a photo reading the newsletter?

Send it to Sara T. and it may be featured in the next issue! [straster@ujcvp.org](mailto:straster@ujcvp.org)

Extra points for funny photos!



Casey & son, Reece enjoying a bedtime story!

Thank you to Jan Freedman for her generous donation of two new benches for our Sarfan Early Childhood Center lobby.



The UJC Community Relations Council hosted NN Mayor-Elect, Phillip Jones for a community gathering to discuss our communal priorities and to learn more about his vision for the city. Thank you Mr. Jones for taking the time to visit our campus.



# CAFE CHAI:

## BOARD GAMES AND HOT COCOA BAR

Thurs. Jan. 12th  
12pm

Come in from the cold, enjoy homemade lunch, play some classic board games, and make a delicious hot cocoa with all the toppings!

PASSPORT MEMBERS: \$5.00  
NON-MEMBERS: \$10.00  
RSVP: [UJCVP.ORG](http://UJCVP.ORG)



# Local Feel Good Story

## Newport News woman has co-authored a new children's book, *Shabbat and Sunday Dinner*, to promote cultural understanding.

by: KaMaria Bray

At the C. Waldo Scott Center in Newport News, Candace Bazemore reads her book from cover to cover to children.

"Who here likes to learn about cultures? Raise your hands," Bazemore said before beginning her read.

In April, Candace, and Gabrielle Spatt published their children's book, *Shabbat and Sunday Dinner*.

"It's really cool. It's a Black Christian boy and a young Jewish kid and they're basically sharing their family dinner traditions," Candace said. "The book follows these two sweet boys through their elementary presentations about teaching their family traditions. And the traditions are based on my family tradition and Candace's family traditions," Gabrielle said.

The two characters are David and Malcolm. David celebrates Shabbat and Malcolm celebrates Sunday dinner.

"In Judaism, every week we celebrate Shabbat. Some people say it's the holiest holiday because it happens every week," Spatt said. "It's a commandment to stop, to disconnect, to forget about the week in the past, to welcome a start to a fresh new week, and to be with those that you want to spend time with."

Eric Bazemore, Candace's brother, illustrated the book. He said he reflected on his childhood memories when portraying Sunday dinner in the book.

"For Sunday dinners when I was growing up, I just remember all the good foods that my grandmama used to cook," he said. "My grandmama used to make excellent mashed potatoes, the greens, sweet potato pie." The book also includes a recipe for challah and deep-fried cornbread.

Candace lives in Newport News but formerly lived in Atlanta where she met Gabrielle. The two authors and

friends learned they were both members of Atlanta's Black/Jewish Coalition.

The coalition was founded in 1982. The late Congressman John Lewis co-founded the organization.

Gabrielle said the group was created to bring the Black and Jewish communities together. She said she and Candace participated in a retreat with other Black and Jewish people to learn about each other's cultures, build friendships and discuss tough topics.

"This is an outcome of an experience that Candace and I had where we got to learn more about racism and more about antisemitism and one of the pictures in the book, dedicated to Black Jewish relations, is of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Heschel walking hand in hand," Gabrielle said.

The duo came up with the idea for a book at the end of 2020.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta awarded the authors a \$2,000 grant to help self-publish the book.

"We want to encourage those who read the book to continue those conversations, to ask the difficult questions and we hope that in doing so, it will help them start new relations with the person that's across the dinner table from them," Candace said.

"It's really about making friends, about breaking bread, and that's where the really special conversations happen, around the dinner table," Gabrielle said. Although *Shabbat and Sunday Dinner* is a children's book, they hope adults learn the message that's inside it.



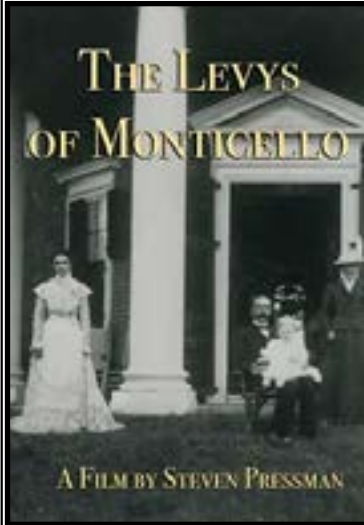
Full article can be found at:

<https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/newport-news/shabbat-and-sunday-dinner-new-childrens-book-promotes-cultural-understanding/>

# Temple Beth El's 22nd Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival Winter Series

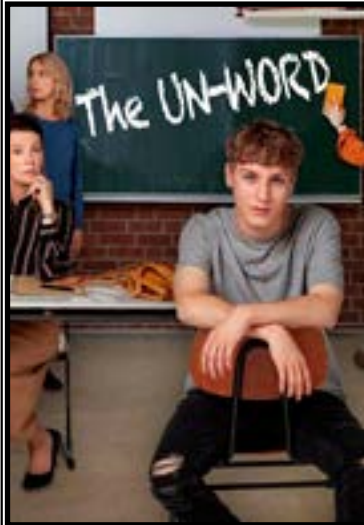
at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theater - 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg VA

All films are free | Light desserts and beverages will be provided afterwards



**Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 2:00pm**  
***The Levys of Monticello***  
*2022, 1 hr 11 min, Documentary*

A missing chapter of American Jewry comes to light in this fascinating chronicle of the Virginia home of one of the nation's Founding Fathers. Thomas Jefferson's Monticello residence, just outside of Charlottesville, stands as a complex symbol of the paradox of democracy. Designed by Jefferson, built and tended by slaves, the palatial plantation was a presidential retreat, retirement home, and final resting place. Sold due to mounting debts, Uriah Phillips Levy, a Jewish naval officer and fervent believer in Jeffersonian ideals, became its unlikely caretaker. When historical preservation was all but unheard of, Levy's family restored and saved the estate from ruin. The story behind this national treasure confronts the stain of ongoing racism and antisemitism that remain part of the national narrative.



**Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 2:00pm**  
***The Un-Word***  
*2020, 1 hr 25 min, German, English subtitles*

This German satire lays bare the discords of modern multiculturalism. Tempers flare after a Jewish student is goaded in a schoolyard brawl. After more taunts by Muslim classmates, the 15-year-old fights back, injuring an Iranian and a Palestinian student. The film is intended as a darkly humorous conversation-starter, seeking a common language in the unending fight against intolerance.



**Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 2:00pm**  
***Betrayed***  
*2020, 2 hr 6 min, Norwegian, English subtitles*

Based on true events, this Norwegian narrative film exposes how Norway's government and people systematically persecuted the country's Jews, and then collaborated in deporting them to German death camps. The horror and callousness of those times is embodied in the experiences of one Jewish family, the Braudes, whose members we get to know through their photographs and their prize-winning portrayals by actors, making this a very personal story for the audience.

**We greatly appreciate the support and loyalty of our audiences.**  
**The Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival Committee**

*Sponsored by Temple Beth El*

**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



Every year on New Year's Day we set goals for the year ahead. I suggest two goals for 2023:

- 1.) Become part of our Jewish community. Rabbi Hillel recognized the importance of community in shaping our goals and sense of self. He wrote, "We are all stronger when we reach out to others and share in a set of values and goals."
- 2.) Spend more time with loved ones. Spending time with people who are dear to us profoundly affects our physical well-being.



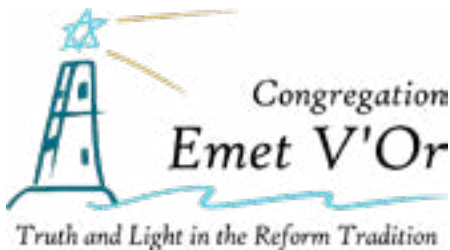
Wishing everyone a year of health, family and peace.

**Shabbos Candle Lighting Times:**

January 6 - 4:46pm  
 January 13 - 4:52pm  
 January 20 - 4:59pm  
 January 27 - 5:07

**Rabbi Litt's Shabbos Schedule:**

January 20th, February 24th, March 24th,  
 April 21st, May 12th, June 16th, July 21st



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.*

- January 6** – Lay led Shabbat service
- January 13** – Rabbi led service with cantorial accompaniment
- January 20** – Lay led Shabbat service
- January 27** – Rabbi led Shabbat service
- February 3** – Rabbi led Shabbat service

**Special Events & Other News**

**Religious school dates** – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 from 9:00 – 12:00

**CEVO Board Meeting** – January 9<sup>th</sup> (Zoom)

**PORT** – Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>



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

 [fb.me/CEVOcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/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!*



## In-Person & Zoom Services

Minyan:

Mondays & Thursdays @ 7:45am

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays @ 6:00pm

Shabbat Morning Services:

Saturdays @ 9:30am

## Other Events:

Tuesdays with Rabbi Adult Education - Tuesdays at Noon via Zoom

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Congregational Dinner - Friday, Jan. 20th (following Kabbalat Shabbat Service)

Sisterhood Book Club - Sunday, Jan. 22nd at 10am

*Please see our website for more information on our programs.*

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)



**Would you like to advertise in  
our UJC Newsletter?**

This monthly newsletter gets  
printed and snail mailed to over  
1400 households and electronically  
distributed to over 1200 individuals.



### Newsletter Pricing:

Full Page - \$300 (7.5 x 10 inches)

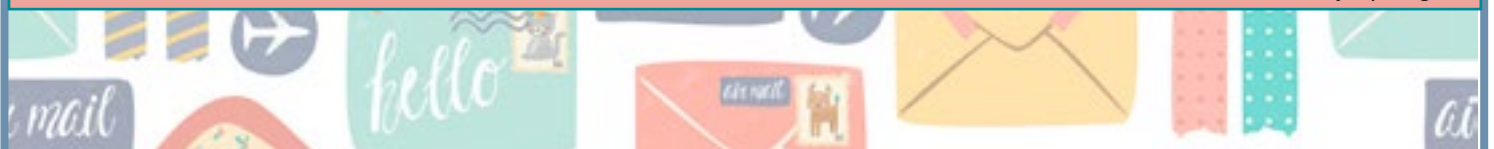
1/2 Page - \$175 (7 x 4 inches)

1/4 Page - \$125 (3 x 4 inches)

1/8 Page - \$75 (2.5 x 3 inches)

*\*Discounts for multi-month ads!\**

Contact Sara Traster: [straster@ujcvp.org](mailto:straster@ujcvp.org)



Temple Beth El of Williamsburg  
600 Jamestown Road  
**Shabbat Kulanu — January 20**



Join us for Shabbat Kulanu, on Friday night, January 20 at 6:30 pm. This family-oriented service features guitar playing, a puppet show, and pizza!



Participate in person – in the synagogue Sanctuary – or online, via Zoom.

Contact [office@tbewilliamsburg.org](mailto:office@tbewilliamsburg.org) for the link.

*We celebrate Jewish life all year!  
Learn more at [tbewilliamsburg.org](http://tbewilliamsburg.org)*

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



**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Friday, January 6th @ 7:30pm** - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 14th @ 10:00am** - Shabbat Service, Martin Luther King Jr. talk by Reverend Preston Jordan, followed by light Kiddush luncheon

**Friday, January 20th @ 7:30pm** - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 28th @ 10:00am** - Shabbat Malachim Service, followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Contact Rabbi Sokol at [rabbiseverine@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiseverine@gmail.com) or (314) 628-9196 if you are interested in attending services.





# Holocaust Writing & Arts Competition

2023 marks the 22nd year of the Holocaust Writing & Visual Arts Competition sponsored by the UJCVP and funded by the Sarfan/William M. & Gary S. Nachman Philanthropic Fund of the UJC Endowment. One of the primary goals of this competition is to encourage young people to apply the lessons of history to the moral decisions they make today. Through studying the Holocaust, students explore the issues of moral courage as well as the dangers of prejudice, peer pressure, unthinking obedience to authority, and indifference. This competition provides students an opportunity to think and express themselves creatively about what they have learned.

This competition has been a continued labor of love to many in the community. Originally chaired by Sandy Katz and Sue Friedman, Helaine Shinske joined the helm after Sue stepped down after a few years. Together Sandy and Helaine would hit the road, physically driving to schools and speaking at staff meetings and often presenting to classrooms to get the word out.

"I loved it, absolutely loved it. It became the thing for me." Helaine reminisced. She felt she was truly able to introduce Judaism and the issues of antisemitism to hundreds of local students each year. She recalls a year when a student rode her bicycle to the UJCVP all the way from York County to turn her essay in on time. "I think Linda Molin gave her a ride home!" She laughed.

In 2019, Sandy and Helaine passed the torch to the next generation of competition chairs, Melissa Kashy and Marley Keefer. "We wanted to pick up from where the people who ran it for many years and make sure that it continued." Melissa said. And Marley added "We're losing the youngest generation of the Holocaust survivors. And because of that, there aren't enough stories being brought down to generations and people are forgetting."

Like with most things, the pandemic caused a decrease in the number of entries over the past few years. Marley and Melissa, both educators themselves,

understand the stresses of teaching. "Teachers are overwhelmed in the schools and may not be getting the word out as much." Marley notes. They are currently exploring other avenues to promote the competition without relying on overworked school staff. According to Helaine, school participation would vary according to the year and teachers, "It was very difficult to grow."

Regardless of the quantity of entries, reading students work and viewing their artwork has remained a favorite part for competition chairs. For many years, essay judging was communal and took place in the UJCVP Library, papers and essays would be all over the table and floor! Judging looks a bit different since March 2020, now judges receive their stack of essays via email and all reading is done at home. Every entry is read by at least three volunteer judges and then the top essays are then sent to a separate group of volunteer readers. Scores are then tabulated, and winners notified. The Visual Arts scoring happens similarly, however art judges are back on the UJCVP campus to view these entries.

Prizes are awarded at the UJCVP's Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration where the first-place winners read their essays and artwork is on display. "It's seeing the kids that win present their essay and displaying their artwork," Melissa said of the most rewarding part of the competition. "And that children of all religions and ethnicities are getting involved in this and learning about the Holocaust." Marley added.

The UJCVP would like to thank everyone who has donated their time and energy to the success of the Holocaust Writing Competition over the past two decades and to those who continue to volunteer. If you would like to get involved, please email [jmalkin@ujcvp.org](mailto:jmalkin@ujcvp.org).

The Holocaust Writing and Visual Arts Competition is open to all students on the Peninsula in both Middle and High School divisions. Please use the QR code to learn more.



*"Best thing I did in my life, for me."*

*- Helaine Shinske*





# 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 10:45am  
 Lunch is served at 12:00pm  
 Bingo resumes after lunch

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

# SKILLS SERIES

## Wed. 1/11, 5:30pm SUSHI



Passport Members - Free  
 Non-Members - \$15/per  
 (for ages 5+)

Register at:  
[ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org)



## 2023 Program Passport Membership

A UJC Program Passport gives you access to all of our amenities and participation in many of our programs and classes at no cost or at a discounted rate.

The following UJC programs are INCLUDED at no additional charge with your Passport Membership:

- Cooking Classes
- Dinner & Discuss Events
- Family Programs
- Fitness Classes
- Flicks & Food
- Grand Club & Senior Meals
- JCraft To Go Art Projects
- Jewish Holiday Celebrations
- Jewish Life & Learning Classes
- Pool Admission to Glendale Pool
- Youth Programming

Visit [ujcvp.org](http://ujcvp.org) for pricing & more info!

## Remembering Your Loved One

Losing a loved one is never easy, but having the help of someone you trust can make the arrangements an easier experience.

At Peninsula Funeral Home, our capability to record services, stream them live, project video programs in the chapel, and play a video in each of the visitation areas—provide beautiful ways to enhance and share your experience.



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**On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select: United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula to have your donations go to the J. Every little bit counts!**

## Adult Pickup Basketball

Saturdays @ 8:00pm  
in the UJC Gym

All experience levels welcome!

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



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

**BOOT CAMP FITNESS**  
THOSE WHO SWEAT TOGETHER...STAY TOGETHER

Instructor: Kelli Paul  
*\*This is not a UJC Program\**

**Evening classes at the J!**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm

Bootcamp Fitness, LLC provides strength, cardio, core, and flexibility training (modifications are always provided). Choreography shifts between cardio intervals, fun cardio "air" boxing with hand pads, bootcamp stations, strength training with dumbbells, and adventurous fitness challenges! Participants need to bring water and a mat. Bootcamp Fitness provides all other equipment.



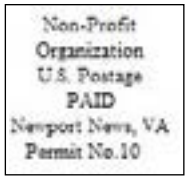
**Passport Members - \$5 per class**  
**Non-Members - \$10 per class**

Visit [ujcup.org](http://ujcup.org) to sign up!



401 City Center Blvd.  
Newport News, VA 23606  
757-930-1422

*Electronic Address Service Requested*



# UJCVP Community January 2023 Calendar

**Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023**

UJC CLOSED

**Monday, Jan. 2, 2023**

UJC CLOSED  
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

**Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023**

4:30pm - Hebrew School  
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

**Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023**

7pm - Pilates

**Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

**Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023**

8pm - Adult Pickup Basketball

**Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023**

2pm - Camp Chaverim Pajama Party Fashion Show

**Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023**

4:30pm - Hebrew School  
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness  
6:30pm - Mindfulness Sound Bath with Lian

**Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023**

5:30pm - Skill Series: Sushi  
7pm - Pilates

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
12pm - Cafe Chai: Board Games & Hot Cocoa Bar  
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

**Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023**

7pm - JCCY National Hat Day  
7pm - PJOW VLM Planetarium

**Monday, Jan. 16, 2023**

UJC CLOSED  
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

**Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023**

1:30pm - NCJW Book Club  
6pm - Young Adult Group Laser Tag  
7pm - UJC General Board Meeting  
7pm - Pilates

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
11:30am - Blood Pressure Clinic  
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

**Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023**

8pm - Adult Pickup Basketball

**Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023**

6pm - Dinner & Discuss: Calm Strips  
7pm - Pilates

**Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023**

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo  
12pm - Flicks & Food: *The Automat*  
3-5pm - JCraft Pick Up  
5:30pm - Bootcamp Fitness

**Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023**

8pm - Adult Pickup Basketball

**Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023**

UJC SUPER SUNDAY  
10am - Joint Sunday School  
10am - Babies & Bagels

**Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023**

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

