



Water Aerobics
Page 4



Flicks & Food
Page 5



Summer Camp
Letters
Page 19

Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

July 2022/5782

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



Dear UJCVP Community,

I feel honored, thrilled and privileged to be able to call the Jewish community of the Virginia Peninsula home!

Throughout my very brief time here, I have been so impressed with the passion, dedication and vision everyone I meet has for the UJCVP's work. This community believes in a vibrant and evolving Jewish community. It ensures dynamic experiences for infants through senior adults and fosters the transmission of our tradition from generation to generation. The UJCVP values the strength of a united Jewish community.

Described enthusiastically by our new president Wendy Eisner as a small community with a big community attitude, the UJCVP reaches higher! It is inspiring by how our community steps up in big ways - from the growing Sarfan Early Childhood Center and Camp Chaverim to the robust programming bringing people together every week. From the full spectrum of services offered by our Jewish Family Services to meet the health and welfare needs of Hampton Roads residents to our rapid mobilization to support the Ukrainian Jewish community in peril, joining communities from across North America.

My path as a Jewish communal professional was ignited by the strong Jewish community I was raised in. Growing up in the suburbs of Boston, our family was deeply connected to our reform synagogue and my identity was molded through participation in preschool, camp, religious school, teen programming and community programming. My wife Becca and I feel blessed to have joined a community that

places such a high value on creating opportunities to connect Jewish individuals and families to the Jewish community and help them find a path to meaningful Jewish living.

Professionally, I have served in roles as unit head at camp, Jewish educator and most recently Executive Director of Jewish Teen Learning Connection. In all these roles, I built enduring relationships and shared my love of Jewish peoplehood. I worked with professionals and community leaders to reimagine program structure and build a values - and mission - driven culture. I earned dual master degrees through the Hornstein Jewish Professional program at Brandeis University, where I strengthened my skills to meet the challenges of a fast-changing Jewish communal landscape. As Executive Director of the UJCVP, I am so excited to carry forward the mission to enhance the quality of Jewish life in our community, Israel and around the world. I am blessed to be able to work with the outstanding staff team and follow in Steve Wendell's footsteps. Steve's innovative leadership has set a strong foundation for the UJCVP.

And on a personal level, my wife, Becca, and our children Amichai (5) and Matan (2) are excited to have made the move to the Virginia Peninsula. We feel so blessed to have been so warmly welcomed by everyone we've met so far, and look forward to meeting you soon.

Bivrahkah (with blessings),

Eric Maurer

emaurer@ujcvp.org

Contents

Departments:

- Fund Donations2
- President's Message3
- Jewish Family Services8
- Area Congregations 15-17

Features

- Camp Chaverim7
- Women's Giving9, 10
- JCC Youth.....11
- Mikveh Project.....14

Mikveh Fund

In honor of Sarah Barnett
Tova Warren

Senior Meals Fund

Get well wishes for Maxine
Jones & James Nyman
Ernestine Adelman

UJC Preschool Fund

In honor of Matthew Sarfan's
engagement
Melissa Kashy
Meryl & Bob Kessler

UJC Youth Fund

In honor of Ellen Eisenberg's
new granddaughter
Sarah & Jim Barnett

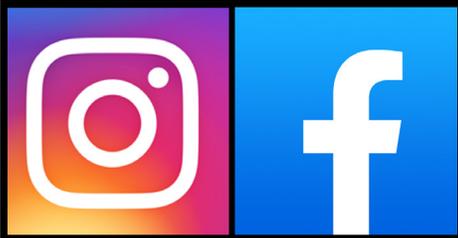
In honor of Carmela Malkin
Kuhn
Sylvia Scholnick

In honor of Sarah Barnett
Lynne Breslau
Melissa Kashy
Laney Morewitz
Danile & Larry Spokony

In memory of the youth in
Uvalde, Texas
Linda Lavaty

Ukrainian Emergency Fund

In memory of my Abba & all our
fallen soldiers
Elizabeth Herbert



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AND
make sure to
'LIKE' OUR
FACEBOOK
page:
[facebook.com/
ujcnp](https://facebook.com/ujcnp)



July 23rd
Beth Arager
Sarfan Center
Perakhim Infant Teacher



July 27th
Kristen Hall
Sarfan Center
Tziporim 2-year-olds Teacher

President's Message - Wendy Eisner



As I take on the role of president, I have been thinking of what this transition will look like. As I thought about the enormity of this task, I decided that first I needed an accurate definition of what the word transition means. Merriam-Webster dictionary offers this meaning: a change or shift from one state, subject, place, etc. to another. After contemplating this meaning, I began to think about the UJCVP.

As you all know, every two years we go through several big changes. A new president, a new executive board, and a new board of directors. This year, we can also add a new executive director. Although there are many new faces, there are also many familiar ones. My thoughts on transition continued, and I realized change is difficult for me. I am more comfortable with the status quo. However, as I reflected on my new position as president, I also came to the conclusion that change is a good thing. We should not fear it, but embrace it. If we never adapt, we cannot move forward. As a community, we will only remain strong if we continue to embrace new beginnings. I am excited to see what growth the next two years will bring.

I have also realized that our community is fluid. We may be small, but we are also mighty, resilient and can take on any challenge that comes our way. This is what motivates me to keep our small but mighty UJC moving forward.



I would also like to welcome our new executive director, Eric Maurer, and his family to our community. I encourage everyone to stop by and meet him. I am very excited to see where we will go with his guidance, energy, and ideas.

Thank you all again for trusting me and allowing me to assist in guiding us forward!



Theodore H. & Esther Beskin Memorial Scholarship Award

SCHOLARSHIP



OPPORTUNITY

Congratulations to the 2022 Beskin Scholarship Award recipient, Jude Link!

Best wishes to Jude as he starts his college education at VCU this fall.

Mazel tov to Jude and the Link family!



**Water Aerobics
with instructor, Stacey Paull**

Thursdays:
July 7th, July 21st, July 28th
6:30-7:30pm @ Glendale Pool

Passport Members - FREE

Non-Members - \$5/class

Register at ujcvp.org

Questions? Email straster@ujcvp.org



Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 16th (in the UJC Lobby)
Tuesday, August 23rd (in the UJC Gym)
10am-3pm

Visit ujcvp.org to schedule an appointment

Questions? Email Sara Traster
straster@ujcvp.org



**York River Symphony
Orchestra Sight Reading
Sessions**

Sundays, July 17th, 24th, 31st
2-4pm

Open to anyone who plays an instru-
ment! Meet at the J to try out new music.

Questions? Email Barbara Morgan
barbarafm@cox.net



Kibbitz and Create

Sunday, July 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

**THE UJC OFFICES, SARFAN CENTER &
CAMP CHAVERIM WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JULY 4TH.**



Flicks and Food

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

Visit ujcvp.org to RSVP

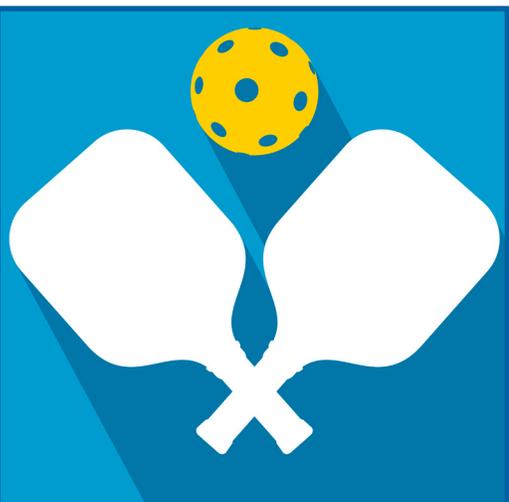
Snacks & popcorn included

Wednesday, July 13th
7:00pm

As They Made Us
2022, R, 1hr 40min

A divorced mom tries to make peace with her dysfunctional family as she finds a second chance at love.

Questions?
Email Jessi Malkin
jmalkin@ujcvp.org



**Do you love pickleball?
Have you always wanted to learn to play?**
Join our UJC Pickleball group!

**Tuesday Evenings @ 7:00pm in the UJC Gym
Sunday Mornings, Outdoor Courts Off Campus**

Open to all adults 18+ – Beginners & couples welcome!
Balls & paddles will be provided.

Passport Members - FREE!
COVID IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED
Email Kelli Caplan (nnkidsville@aol.com) for registration info.

Education Corner - Naioki Wood, Sarfan Center

Congratulations to our Pre-K / K Graduates of 2022!

Noah Ashlin
Weston Fields
Killian Maher
Alexander Morton
Harrison Prager
Mila Buelman
Juliana Buyalos
Harper Fenton
Chase Fritz
Violette Jones
Joyce Kilgore
Cody Brown
Alayna Erdogan
Ishmael Erdogan
Everett Hays
Maeve Hudson
Hannah Karlin
Riley Luse
Lev Rathsom
Smith Simpson
Alexander Warren
Ethan Wood



A BIG THANK YOU to our extraordinary teaching team: Ms. Gavrielle, Mrs. Maya and Ms. Tori for nurturing our future leaders!

Summer Camp Chaverim

Team Building and Training: A Summer Guide to Success

The true key to a successful summer is created by the footprints we make as a team. As we inched closer to the first day of camp, we came together to tackle team-building workshops, staff trainings, and recreation resources to help guide and support the energy that spreads over our campus throughout the summer months. With the time spent together, our young professionals are ready to share their commitment and goal of being a 'champion' in the eyes of our campers. The Summer Camp Team of 2022 is excited to be sharing a fun-filled camp season with our families.



Jewish Family Services - Libby Batten

Food insecurity and the lack of finances to purchase gas is having an impact on the Jewish community. Currently, the UJCVP Jewish Family Services office is requesting donations of **grocery or gas gift cards** (Food Lion, Walmart, Wawa, 7-11 etc.)



Nonperishable food donations such as **peanut butter, jelly, and 'just add water' side dishes** are requested for the food pantry. The food items may be dropped off in the UJC front entryway in the box labeled JFS.

Gift cards may be hand delivered to the UJCVP office or mailed to the UJCVP: 401 City Center Blvd. Newport News VA 23606
Attention: Libby Batten

Thank you for your continued support!

Take Time Out for Yourself with Meditation

Mental Health Month should not only be recognized for the month of May. Try to take time out for yourself once a day with one of the listed apps / websites. "Research indicates that many people feel significantly less stressed after using meditation apps for as little as two weeks."
(<https://www.wellsanfrancisco.com/do-meditation-apps-work>)

Here is a list of meditation apps that was drawn together from the fabulous participants of the Monday May Mental Health Awareness Month:

Great Meditation - YouTube

Meditative Story Podcast *Welcome to Meditative Story*

Breathe / Relax on Apple Watch and Fit Bit (comes preloaded on devices)

Modeh Ani Morning Guided Meditation - YouTube

Jewish Meditation Moments - Facebook



**We are a campus of caring.
Everyone deserves care.**

RAISE YOUR HAND DAY
THURS. JULY 28TH, 9am-2pm

If you have a problem or issue PLEASE call for assistance to find out how we can help.
It's ok to not be ok. We are here to listen. Better starts here!

UJCP

Call our UJC Jewish Family Service Office
Libby Batten, MSW | 757-223-5635

Lions, and Chais, and Pearls... *Oh My!*

On May 25th, in honor of the Lion of Judah 50th birthday, our UJC Lions, Chais and Pearls came together for a celebration of women's giving. Our celebration honored our women philanthropists of UJC past and welcomed new Lions to our current pack.

The original 9 Lions of Judah of our UJC (Sue Anne Bangel, Marie Blechman, Lil Diamonstein, Jean Falk, Rena Nachman Kates, Betty Levin, Joanne Roos, Barbara Rosenbaum and Dorene Sarfan) cultivated this group over the years, and now our Lions den has grown to 32 Annual Campaign Lions, including 14 Endowed Lions. At our Lion celebration, we were thrilled to pin our new Lions, Mariel Focseneanu and Sara Traster, as well as a new Endowed Lion, Robin Levy.



*Jean Falk, Deborah Binder, Lilly Aaron
& Lil Diamonstein*



Rena Nachman Kates & Joanne Roos



Lil Diamonstein & Rhoda Mazur



Lil Diamonstein & Rita Spirn



*Evelyn Mirmelstein, Marie Blechman
& Rita Spirn*



Betty Levin & Libby David



*Barbara Rosenbaum, Joanne Roos
& Betty Levin with author, Joan
Nathan*



*Ettalea Kanter &
Libby David*



Belle Olshansky



Libby David & Barbara Gordon



*Libby David,
Joanne Roos,
Tzina Richman,
Dorene Sarfan
& Sue Anne
Bangel*



*Cis Posner
&
Linda Roesen*

Continued on page 10

Lions, and Chais, and Pearls *continued from pg 9*

Our Lions, Chais and Pearls are a dynamic, strong, devoted group of women who care about our UJC Jewish future and Jewish organizations around the world. It was so wonderful to have all three of our women's philanthropy groups together to recognize the great work these ladies accomplish.



Jody Sarfan & Cis Posner



Sally Seltzer & Rita Spirn



Joan Rosenbaum & Ethel Rogatz Krinick



Joanne Gordon & Bonnie Katzenberg



Wendy Eisner, Jenny David, Beth Arager



Bobbi Goldstein, Beth Kluger, Ruby Conn, Lisa Margolin, Sherri Becker & Sarah Barnett



Ginny Francum & Jenny David



Laura Epstein, Jenny David, Ettalea Kanter & Libby David



Mariel Focseneanu & Barbara Rosenbaum



Laney Morewitz, Robin Murov & Jan Frank



Sara Traster & Judie Kavitt



Meryl Kessler & Carmela Malkin Kuhn



Sarah Barnett, Judie Kavitt & Shelly Portnoy



Robin Levy & Ettalea Kanter



Lori Luckman & Sylvia Craft



Tova Warren



Jessi Malkin & Rosanne Stupar



Ellyn Soefer, Sylvia Craft, Bobbie Goldstein, Linda Roesen, Tzina Richman & Robin Murov



Kelli Caplan & Charlene Wendell

BARK SOCIAL YAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, July 26th
6:00pm

Bring your pups to play at
the J while you unwind from
your day!

Popsicles (alcoholic & kid-friendly)
& Pupsicles will be provided

RSVP: ujcvp.org

PASSPORT MEMBERS - FREE! | NON-MEMBERS - \$10/FAMILY



JCC Kids Connect: Summer Splash!

Sunday, July 10th from 2-3pm

Find Mrs. Jessi at the pool & get a special treat! (for kids 18 & younger)

Passport Members - FREE
Non-Members \$5 pool guest fee (Please pay the lifeguards & sign in)



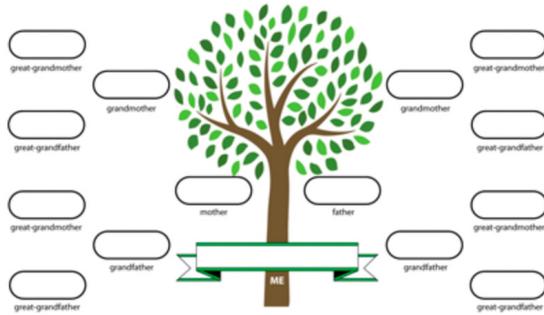
Hanukkah in July Baseball Game Monday, July 18th @ 7pm

Passport Members - Free * Non-Members - \$5 / ticket

Group seating & kids will get to run the bases!
-Don't forget to wear your Hanukkah swag-

Ticket Reservations through the UJC website: ujcvp.org

Family Tree



A Message from Steve Marks, UJC Vice President

Over the past several years, I experienced an enlightening and emotional journey in researching my family history -- leading to a number of surprising and powerful accounts of my family in World War II Poland. I firmly believe in the importance of learning family stories and passing on the details to our descendants.

I recently had the opportunity to share my discoveries in a lecture to the LifeLong Learning Society (adult education) at CNU. Through this process, it became apparent to me that there is a yearning for many of our Jewish community members to learn more about their own roots. To this end, we will be starting the process of determining the level of interest in establishing ongoing programming to serve these needs. If members have any interest in topics such as these, I would love to hear from you. And if members have a level of expertise in Jewish Genealogy and are interested/willing to assist with programming and other educational ventures, I would also love for you to reach out.



Pearl Society 2022

Our UJC Pearl Society has wrapped up another successful year of learning, giving & fun!

This year the Pearl giving circle funds added up to almost \$4,000 to donate to the following organizations:

LOCAL JEWISH

20/30 Something UJC Young Adult Group

LOCAL NON-JEWISH

Fear2Freedom

NATIONAL

Beit T'Shuvah
Footsteps

INTERNATIONAL

Cycle Forward
Lotem

If you would like to join Pearl Society, please contact Sara Traster: straster@ujcvp.org

Glendale Pool will be closing early at
4pm for swim meets on:
Tues. 7/12, Thurs. 7/14, Mon. 7/18

UJCVP Senior Lunches & Grand Club

Meet at the J for in-person lunch and bingo on Thursdays throughout the summer!

Bingo begins at 10:45am, Lunch at 12:00pm

Lunch for ages 60+ - \$2.50 | Lunch for Passport Members - FREE!

Additional charges for Bingo Cards

Email Layne: lmunley@ujcvp.org for more information or to RSVP



Glendale Pool Events

Sat. 7/2, 11:30-1:30pm - July 4th Cookout

Fri. 7/8, 9-11pm - Adult Swim

Sun. 7/10, 2pm - Bingo

Fri. 7/22, 8pm - Movie Night

Thurs. 7/28 - Swim-a-Thon

Thurs. 7/28, 8pm - Teen Night

For Pool/Passport Membership questions,
please email straster@ujcvp.org

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The Open Mikveh Movement

by Mikveh Guide, Sarah Barnett

Rav Abraham Kook (1865-1935), the first Ashkenzic chief rabbi in pre-state Israel, and who is considered one of the fathers of religious Zionism, once said, “the old will be made new, and new made holy.” Though not speaking about mikveh usage and immersion, this is a prophetic statement. There is so much in Judaism that can be applied to Rav Kook’s notion, as Judaism is a religion that continually evolves and adapts to surroundings and culture, while always keeping Torah at its core.

The Open Mikveh movement is a perfect example of the old becoming new with traditional and contemporary immersion practices gaining more traction around the globe. Open mikvaot (plural of mikveh) are found in all kinds of places and are built and run by a diversity of organizational bodies. Some are free-standing buildings and entities; some are connected to synagogues but owned and run separately; some are owned and run by synagogues from a variety of movements. Most mikvehs are solely mikvehs, while a growing number are part of a larger entity with a broader spiritual scope delving into the realm of spirituality, holistic wellness, and mental health.

The Rising Tide affiliated mikvehs at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC and Beth El Congregation in Baltimore are both integrated into broader mindfulness and wellness initiatives within their respective congregations. Rachel’s Well

Community Mikveh in Portland, Oregon is a free standing building on a JCC campus that is owned by the Portland Jewish Federation. The Metro Atlanta Community Mikveh (MACoM) in Georgia is connected to a local synagogue but is separately owned and operated. ImmerseNYC isn’t a mikveh at all, but is an immersion program run by a large JCC in Manhattan offering guided immersions in Manhattan and Westchester.



Photo: Mikveh Chaim located in the Ohev Shalom Congregation in Washington DC. Housed in an orthodox synagogue, Mikveh Chaim is inclusive and open to all in the Jewish community.

Like all synagogues and JCCs, all mikvehs are the same and different. Every month, our umbrella organization highlights another mikveh story from around the globe and the list of members continues to grow. I think Rav Kook might be a bit perplexed by this newfound popularity of immersion embraced for both Jewishly commanded and contemporary purposes. But I also believe that he would recognize the value of his wisdom; that mikveh immersion has been rooted in Jewish practice for thousands of years and that the inclusive, and diverse, uptake of this ancient practice by all streams of Judaism is definitely an expression of the old becoming new, and the new becoming holy.

For more information on the Open Mikveh movement, please visit their website at: risingtideopenwaters.org

Our UJCVP 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

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's July. Time to have cookouts. How about making your own Challah hamburger buns? Here's a recipe. Save a few for Shabbos.

Challah Rolls

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 pkg. active dry yeast | 4 egg yolks |
| 1 c. warm water | 3 1/4 c. all purpose flour |
| 1/4 c. granulated sugar | 1 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 1/4 c. vegetable oil | 1 egg lightly beaten, for egg wash |

1. In a small bowl, mix warm water and yeast. Let rest in a warm spot for 10 min., or until foamy.

Shabbos Candle Lighting Times:

July 1 - 8:10pm, July 8 - 8:09pm,
July 15 - 8:06pm

July 22 - 8:02pm, July 29 - 7:57pm

Rabbi Litt's Shabbos Schedule:

July 1-2, August 5-6, September 2-3

2. In a large bowl, combine flour, salt, sugar, oil, egg

yolks, and yeast mixture. Stir until dough comes together. Dump dough onto a lightly floured surface, and knead about 5 to 7 minutes. Use more flour as needed to form a soft smooth dough.

3. Form dough into ball and place into oiled bowl. Turn over to coat both sides. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and let rest in a warm spot 1 hour or until doubled in bulk. Punch down, cover and allow to rest another 45 minutes.

4. Turn out dough on lightly floured surface. Knead a few times. Cut into 12 even pieces. Cover. Shape into rolls and place on a parchment lined baking sheet. Cover and let rest while oven heats up.

5. Heat oven to 350 F. degrees. Brush rolls with egg wash. Bake for 25 to 30 min. until golden brown. Let cool for 30 min. Enjoy!



Congregation Emet V'Or

Truth and Light in the Reform Tradition

Office.CEVO@gmail.com
www.emetvor.org
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.

July 1 – Shabbat in the Home

July 8 – Rabbi led service with cantorial accompaniment

July 15 – Lay led Shabbat service

July 22 – Lay led Shabbat service

July 29 – Lay led Shabbat service

August 5 – Rabbi led service

Special Events & Other News

CEVO Board Meeting – July 11 (Zoom)

Are you interested in having your child attend a fun, well rounded, educational religious school? CEVO is taking applications for children from ages 2-4 (Parent and Me), and grades 1st – 10th. Please contact us at office.cevo@gmail.com for more information.



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

 fb.me/CEVOcommunity

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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

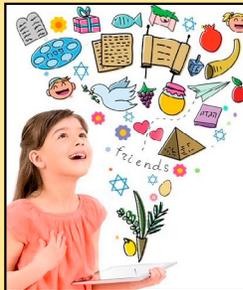
In-Person Shabbat Morning Services & Zoom

Saturdays @ 9:30am

Contact the office for Zoom information: office@rodefsholomtemple.org

401 City Center Blvd. - Newport News, VA, 23606 - 757-826-5894 - rodefsholomtemple.org

TBEW School — Fall 2022



- Kindergarten through seventh grade
- Hands-On, engaging lessons from Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) curriculum
- Instruction led by William & Mary students active in Hillel
- Nurture students' Jewish identity and develop community connections
- We welcome inquisitive, active children
- Dynamic, deeply connected, kind and inclusive school community
- A fun and joyous learning experience
- B'nai Mitzvah training

Contact office@tbewilliamsburg.org for registration information.

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

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



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday, July 2nd @ 10:00am - Shabbat Service followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Friday, July 8th @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 16th @ 10:00am - Shabbat Service co-led by Jonathan Homrighausen & Frederick Levy followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Friday, July 23rd @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Friday, July 29th @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Judy Kline

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



**Handle
with
Care**

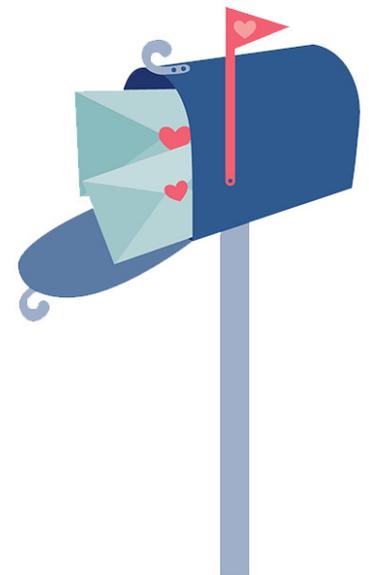


Will your child be away
at camp this summer?

Let Jessi Malkin know.
She would love to send
your child some snail mail
while they're away!



Email:
jmalkin@
ujcvp.org





How Summer Camp Became a Jewish Thing

A history of this iconic institution in American Jewish life.

by Jeri Zeder

Thirteen-year-old Becky Goldberg’s summer was filled with magic: glittering sunshine on sparkling lakes, capsized canoes and children rappelling like spiders down rocky cliffs. By the time her four weeks at Jewish sleep-away camp were over, Goldberg felt like a link in a giant chain. “I had a ton of best friends from all over the United States,” she said. Excitement beamed from her voice.

Goldberg, a fifth-year camper at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, the Reform movement’s first camp in America, is one of about 62,000 Jewish children who [annually] attend a Jewish summer camp.

A Place of Our Own: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping, edited by Michael M. Lorge and Gary P. Zola (University of Alabama Press), is a book of scholarly essays that raises the questions: Where did Jewish camping come from? And where is it going?

The book is a history featuring twists, turns, asides, footnotes, and cool trivia, like the fact that the first known Jewish camp was, of all things, a girl’s camp, founded in 1893 by the Jewish Working Girls Vacation Society, located in New York. But in a nutshell, the history goes like this:

Turn of the Century

The first Jewish camps sprouted up amid the larger organized camping movement in America, led by 19th-century social reformers seeking to give a reprieve to children living in the squalid conditions of industrializing cities. These fresh-air

programs blended spiritual, educational, and recreational components. By the mid-1920s, hundreds of camps had opened in forested, lakeshore spots around the United States.

The early Jewish camps were motivated by two concepts: Bring inner-city kids out to the country, and “Americanize” the children of Eastern European immigrants. What made these camps Jewish was their demographics, not their programming. Their campers were Jewish, and the camps were run under Jewish auspices.

Acculturation at Camp

But beginning in the 1920s and through the ’30s, ’40s and ’50s, a trend emerged that ran counter to the emphasis on acculturation at many Jewish camps: the growth of camps with consciously Jewish cultural and educational missions. Among the first were the Cejwin Camps in Port Jervis, N.Y., which were founded by the Central Jewish Institute, an independent Jewish community center on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, and Camp Boiberik, a Yiddish camp near Rhinebeck, N.Y.

In addition to Yiddish camps, camps with Zionist, Hebrew and socialist identities came into existence. While sporting different cultural and ideological missions, they all offered in common Jewish experiences inextricably linked to the pleasures of friendships forged in outdoor summer fun.



Camp Watitoh in Becket, Massachusetts, 1950

Enter Denominations

The 1940s saw great growth — and a shift. According to Jerry Silverman, former president of the Foundation for Jewish

Camping, Conservative movement leaders — with Reform leaders quickly following — began looking for ways to develop future leaders. That was the start of the movement of Camp Ramah — the camping arm of Conservative Judaism — and the rise of denominational camps.



Services at Camp Solomon Schechter, a Conservative overnight camp, 2002

In an essay in Lorge and Zola's book, Brandeis University professor Jonathan Sarna explains that before 1940, about two-thirds of all new Jewish camps were either philanthropic or community based. From 1940 to 1960, that number dropped to less than a quarter, while 40% had explicit educational and religious missions.

Many of these camps initially provided transformative experimental and experiential religious programs for teenagers. By the mid-1950s, however, the denominational camps were extending their programs to younger children in efforts not only to "transform" but also to "mold."

Ninety new Jewish camps opened during the 1960s, but then growth stopped abruptly. "There was stagnation of new camps from the late 1960s to the early 1970s until the mid-1990s," Silverman said.

There are no clear explanations for these trends. Some speculate that the stagnation was related to the push to build congregations and day schools, and that the subsequent new growth is related to the redirection of resources to Jewish summer camping after studies suggested that camps are good investments for the Jewish future because they are effective at making Jewishness "stick" to kids.

View From the Present

The new century has brought a boomlet of camps west of the Mississippi, following the westward migration of many Jewish families. Today, "there are Jewish camps for everyone, for every diverse kind of Jewish family you can think of: interfaith, gay couples, couples of color. Some

focus on sports, some are Orthodox; the Reconstructionist movement just opened a camp this past summer," Silverman said.

Hopes are high among enthusiasts that Jewish camping is poised for a new renaissance. "We feel there's going to

be an inordinate amount of opportunity and new programs opening in the next five years," Silverman said. "We want 150,000 kids going to Jewish camp. We believe the Jewish community will look different in 15 to 20 years if they do."

What is it about Jewish camps that make them so successful at instilling in children Jewish identities so deep that they last a lifetime? "Each camp has a very strong and intentional culture, camp by camp. Camp's power to socialize young Jews — How do I be a Jew? How do I be a member of the Jewish community? — depends on this culture," said Amy L. Sales, co-author with Leonard Saxe of *How Goodly Are Thy Tents: Summer Camps as Jewish Socializing Experiences* (Brandeis University Press, 2003). Culture encompasses everything, from how the Sabbath is observed to never deviating from grilled cheese on Mondays.

Becky Goldberg, meanwhile, knows exactly what she's doing the summer she enters 10th grade. That's when she'll be eligible for her camp's He-

brew-immersion program. "We kids planned to be together," she said.



Havdalah at URJ Jacobs camp in Mississippi

Article can be found at:
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/summer-camps/>



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UJCVP Community July 2022 Calendar

Friday, July 1, 2022

11-9pm - Glendale Pool

Saturday, July 2, 2022

11-9pm - Glendale Pool
11:30-1:30pm -
Glendale Cookout

Sunday, July 3, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Monday, July 4, 2022

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
CAMP CHAVERIM CLOSED
1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, July 5, 2022

11-8pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

11-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, July 7, 2022

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11-8pm - Glendale Pool
6:30pm - Water Aerobics

Friday, July 8, 2022

11-9pm - Glendale Pool
9-11pm - Glendale Adult Swim

Saturday, July 9, 2022

11-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, July 10, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool
2pm - Glendale Bingo
2pm - JCC Kids Connect

Monday, July 11, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

11-4pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

11-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, July 14, 2022

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11-4pm - Glendale Pool

Friday, July 15, 2022

11-9pm - Glendale Pool

Saturday, July 16, 2022

11-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, July 17, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool
2pm - YRSO Sight Reading

Monday, July 18, 2022

1-4pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Hanukkah in July
Pilots Baseball Game

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

11-8pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, July 21, 2022

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11-8pm - Glendale Pool
6:30pm - Water Aerobics

Friday, July 22, 2022

11am - 9pm - Glendale Pool
8pm - Glendale Movie Night

Saturday, July 23, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, July 24, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool
2pm - YRSO Sight Reading

Monday, July 25, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
6pm - Bark Social Yappy Hour
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, July 28, 2022

Raise Your Hand Day
10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
6:30pm - Water Aerobics
8pm - Glendale Teen Night

Friday, July 29, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Saturday, July 30, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, July 31, 2022

10am - Kibbitz & Create
11am-9pm - Glendale Pool
2pm - YRSO Sight Reading

