



Dinner & Discuss
with Dr. Vered Sakal
Page 4



Red Cross Blood
Drive
Page 13



Kibbitz & Create
Page 14

Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

May/June 2025/5785

SARFANCENTER
5K

More info. on
page 9

A collage of four photos from the Sarfancenter 5K race. The top left photo shows a family of four in green event shirts. The top right photo shows a group of runners on a paved path. The bottom left photo shows a young girl in a red shirt holding a race bib. The bottom right photo shows children in superhero costumes running.

CAMP CHAVERIM

OPEN HOUSE
AND
Father's Day BBQ

Page 12

A colorful illustration featuring a hot dog on a grill, with musical notes and a smiling sun in the background.

UJCVP
ANNUAL MEETING

Page 13

A photo of a group of children, some wearing backpacks, standing outdoors.

SPRING has
SPRUNG

AT THE J!

A decorative illustration featuring a large pink flower and several butterflies.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH | 6:35PM

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT

A photo of a baseball player in a red jersey and white pants, captured in a throwing motion on a field.

WITH THE NORFOLK TIDES AT HARBOR PARK!
vs. the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs

Visit ujcvp.org to purchase tickets

2025 Annual Campaign

In honor of Jessi Malkin
Esther & Rabbi Mendy Heber

Wishing Roy Lasris a speedy
recovery

Melissa & Dave Kashy

In memory of Linda Molin

Rona & Alan Altschuler

Lea Berger

Jeanne Dascoli

Susan Folkes & Harry

Kirschbaum

Barbara Gordon & Ellen

Waranch

Joanne & Richard Gordon

Robert Hilling

Martha & Tsvi Katz-Hyman

Judie & Gary Kavut

Debbie & Bob Kusnetz

Florence Kusnetz

Joan & Steve Marks

Paulette & Larry Molin

Ronald Molin

Janet & Gary Nachman

Caroline Oolie

Rochelle Portnoy

Tzina Richman

Barbara & Neal Rosenbaum

Jody & Ed Sarfan

Helaine & Jay Shinske

Michael Sukman

Victoria Ward

Charlene & Steve Wendell

In memory of Bob Nochimson

Joanne & Richard Gordon

Jewish Family Services

In memory of Hattie Kirsner
Mitch Kirsner

Eric & Jack Luckman

Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Lori & Jeff Luckman's
birthdays

Mark Nataupsky

In honor of Max Pastor's
promotion

Lori & Jeff Luckman

In honor of Ryder's baby naming
Joanne & Richard Gordon

In memory of Cheryl Luckman
Simmons

Bonnie Katzenberg

Marc Minkoff Sports

Scholarship Fund

In memory of Marc Minkoff

Karen Minkoff

Arthur Reilly

Marilyn & Dr. Mark

Nataupsky Holocaust

Education Fund

In memory of Linda Molin

Aviva & Jack Mrazik

Barbara Rosenbaum Young

Leadership Fund

In honor of the birth of Barbara
& Neal Rosenbaum's first
grandchild

Mariel & Eric Karlin

UJC Preschool Fund

In honor of Arnie Abrams on his
special birthday

Carmela Malkin Kuhn

Contents

Departments:

- Fund Donations 2
- President's Message 3
- Campaign Corner 4
- Education Corner 6-7, 9
- Area Congregations 14-17

Features

- Yom HaShoah 5
- Sarfan Center 5K 9
- Camp Chaverim 12
- One Happy Camper 19
- Pearl Society 20

In honor of Wendy & Jonathan
Eisner's new grandson

Melissa & Dave Kashy

In honor of Barbara & Neal
Rosenbaum's new grandson

Melissa & Dave Kashy

In honor of Sydney Sarfan's
engagement

Joanne & Richard Gordon

Wishing Roy Lasris a quick &
complete recovery

Carmela Malkin Kuhn

In memory of Linda Molin
Carolyn Vassos

UJC Unrestricted Endowment Fund

In memory of Linda Molin
Ettalea Kanter

President's **Message** - Steve Marks



Snuggery (n) snugh-uh-ree

A comfortable, cozy place or room.

When we think of the UJCVP, we often picture the incredible programs, the dedication of our volunteers and the positive impact we have on the communities we serve. But beneath all these noble efforts lies something equally important: comfort. Not just the physical comfort of a warm office or a freshly brewed cup of coffee, but the deeper, emotional comfort of belonging, support and understanding.

Think of us as a snuggery — a place where individuals come together not only to work toward a shared mission, but also to find peace and reassurance amidst the challenges they face.

In today's world, many are in search of genuine connection. Whether it's a support group for those facing difficult times, a safe space for marginalized communities, or simply a welcoming environment where kindness and compassion thrive, the UJC serves as a sanctuary of comfort in a world often marked by uncertainty and struggle. The bonds we form with one another nourish us--and, over time, our members, of all ages, grow closer to both our community and the richness of Jewish tradition.

The UJC offers a wide array of opportunities for connection and growth. While we celebrate Jewish culture, history and the arts through various classes, performances and events, we also create a space where everyone is welcomed, no matter their level of familiarity with Jewish practices. Our diverse programming includes sports, fitness, cooking, arts and crafts and social action experiences. We host events for youth, families and seniors, offer group outings, and even play Mahjong together. And, of course, we're home to our highly acclaimed preschool and summer camp.

I invite you to consider how you can engage with our community. Whether you're looking for educational experiences, emotional support, cultural connection, meaningful activities, or simply a place to relax and recharge, the UJC offers a nurturing environment that supports your spiritual and personal growth. Explore our newsletter, community calendar and website. And if you need more ideas or assistance, our dedicated staff and leadership are always here to help.



Campaign **Corner** - *Jessi Malkin*



I want to share a story with you. This story begins shortly after birth, at eight days old, when a new baby boy was brought to the UJC multipurpose room, became part of this community and began his Jewish journey. One short year later, this curly-haired child entered the Sarfan Center Mazel Tot program.

Time has flown by, and since then, this young man has graduated from the preschool and UJC Hebrew school. He is excited about his first summer in the TAL (Teens as Leaders) program at Camp Chaverim, something he has been looking forward to since he was a small camp K'tonton. This summer, he will become a Jewish adult on the UJC campus where this Jewish baby grew into a Jewish child. Since I know many of you are speculating, I am writing about my son, Max.

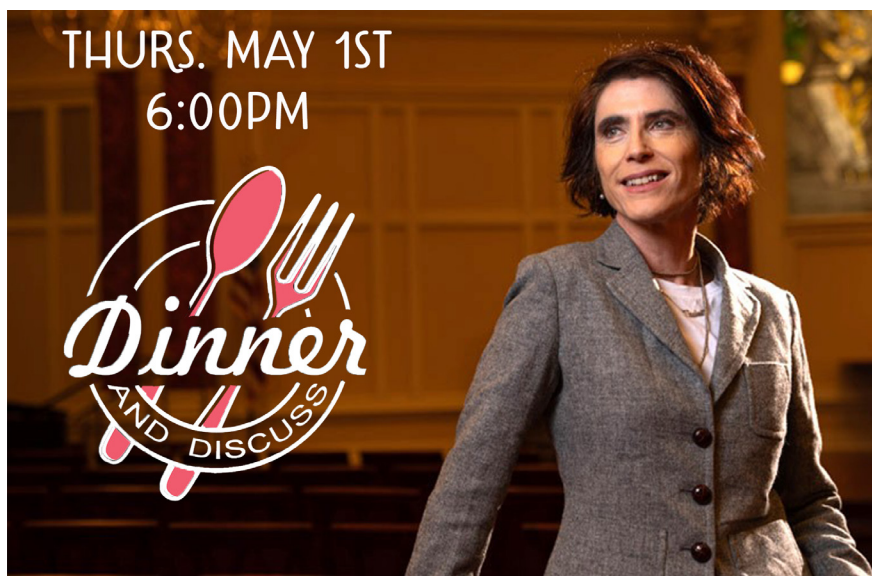


But this could be any of our children. Thousands of children have graced our campus over the years, learning, growing and playing, all while feeling the warm embrace of this fantastic community. This summer, many of our Camp Chaverim counselors are preschool alumni. Our kids grow up on this campus and want to continue giving back to the community they know and love. These young adults will receive their first paychecks on the campus that witnessed so many of their other firsts. I don't have to tell you we have something special at the UJC; you all know it.

Thank you for all you do to support this community through the Annual Campaign that guarantees we will embrace many more generations.

To learn more about our Annual Campaign and to make your pledge, visit: ujcvp.org/annual-campaign

.....



Dinner & Discuss: National Victories and Individual Dilemmas, An Exploration of Modern Jewish Identities

Join us at the J for a discussion with CNU Jewish Studies professor, Dr. Vered Sakal.

Dr. Sakal will discuss varied aspects of modern Jewish identity, as it is presented in the works of Israeli artist Adi Nes.

Admission: \$10 per person | RSVP at ujcvp.org/jewish-life

Questions? Email Carmela Malkin Kuhn: carmela@ujcvp.org

Yom HaShoah Remembrance Program Features Holocaust Survivor Michel Ashe



The United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula held its annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration on April 23rd. The solemn event featured Holocaust survivor Michel Ashe, who shared his personal testimony of survival in

a Catholic village in Southern France.

Ashe's moving account of survival during one of history's darkest chapters provided attendees with a powerful firsthand perspective, reinforcing the importance of remembering the Holocaust, its victims and the towns of ordinary people who did extraordinary things.



The program also recognized student winners of the 24th annual Holocaust Writing and Arts Competition, highlighting the next generation's understanding and commitment to preserving this crucial history. Marley

Keefer and Melissa Kashy, co-chairs of the annual competition, expressed gratitude to the local schools and dedicated teachers who continue Holocaust education efforts in their classrooms.



Community rabbis led meaningful prayers and reflections during the ceremony. The event was further enriched by the presence of civic and community leaders who demonstrated their solidarity and commitment to remembrance.



This annual commemoration serves as a vital reminder of the importance of bearing witness to history and working toward a future free from hatred and persecution.

For more photos of the program, to view the winning student entries of the competition, and to read Michel Ashe's story, visit: ujcvp.org/holocaust-education



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

Education Corner - Carmela Malkin Kuhn



A Tribute to Hebrew School Teacher, Reece David

Mazel tov, Reece, on your graduation! Your journey at the Hebrew School has been nothing short of inspiring – from stepping up as a teaching assistant right after your bar mitzvah to now being a teacher with your own class.

Your dedication to teaching, your commitment to your community and your skills in balancing your responsibilities with such maturity are admirable.

We wish you only the best as you begin your college years and look forward to hearing about your future success. Mazel Tov! You will be greatly missed!



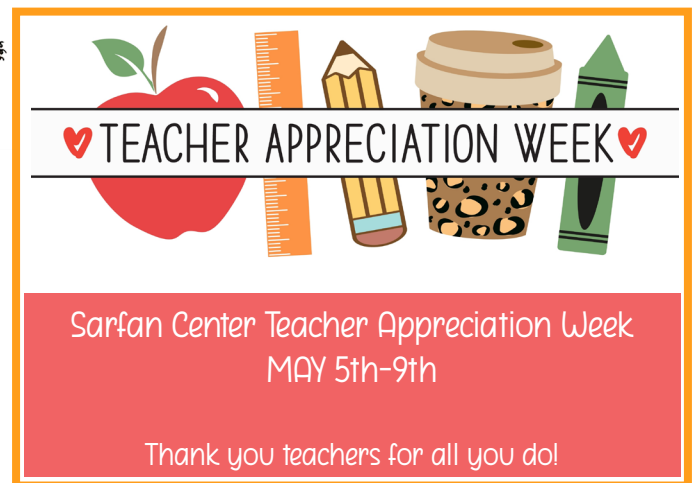
2025 Hebrew School Graduates

Luke Mastros & Macy Schorr

Mazel Tov!



Thank you to everyone who voted for our amazing UJC Sarfan Center!





Ms. Gavrielle & Ms. Becka's Class

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Emma Diamond | Luca Malkin |
| Devorah Heber | Daniel Nasirov |
| Ian Jeong | Dean Rathsam |
| Aela Jones | Caroline Salinas |
| DJ Kearn | Midge Traster |
| Ezra Lugo | |

Mrs. Maya & Ms. Becka's Class

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Zaidan Ashraf | Steven Schmid |
| Anna Hayes | Catherine Slezak |
| Lucy Little | Sullivan Smark |
| Sadie Minney | Olivia Stearn |
| Prisha Mohan | |



Mrs. Julia & Miss. Selena's Class

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Sam Chambley | Madelyn Dull |
| Teddy Clark | Isabella Palomino |
| Evelyn Dull | Madelyn Papas |

UJCVP and THRIVE Peninsula Partnership Supported Jewish Families During Passover



Angela York (L) Executive Director at THRIVE Peninsula and Libby Batten (R), UJCVP Jewish Family Services Director in front of the kosher for Passover shelves at THRIVE's Market.

In an impactful collaboration, the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula (UJCVP) and THRIVE Peninsula partnered to serve Jewish families during Passover.

THRIVE Peninsula operates The Market at THRIVE, an innovative free grocery store that

provides fresh foods in a dignified shopping environment for those in need. Jewish Family Services, established to address community social service needs, continues its tradition of delivering holiday meal items to families on limited budgets and those who are homebound.

Building on their shared values of community support and respect for cultural traditions, the UJC and THRIVE came together this spring and created a dedicated kosher for Passover section at The Market at THRIVE, featuring essential ritual foods and holiday staples. This initiative ensured that Jewish families could prepare for this important holiday with dignity, selecting foods that honored both tradition and personal preference.

"The holidays, while joyous occasions, can also be a time when financial burdens feel particularly overwhelming for many families," said Eric Maurer, CEO of the UJCVP. "Through this partnership with THRIVE Peninsula, we addressed an important need in our community. Passover is a celebration of freedom, and we believe that should include freedom from worry about how to provide traditional foods for the seder table. We wanted to ensure that all members of the Jewish community could celebrate the Passover holiday joyfully, maintaining our sacred traditions regardless of financial circumstances."

Community members supported this effort by donating kosher for Passover food items at the UJCVP office. The response was remarkable, with hundreds of items collected, far exceeding initial expectations, ensuring the shelves at THRIVE were well-stocked throughout the holiday period. The donated items included not only traditional items like matzah, matzah ball soup mix, macaroons, gefilte fish and grape juice, but also special treats that brought joy to holiday celebrations.

"Having new partnerships allows us to say 'yes' to more families who are food insecure and it's such a win for the community," said Angela York, Executive Director of THRIVE Peninsula. "We received 140 pounds of Passover food and we had several families come in for a full shopping experience."

"We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this initiative such a success," said Libby Batten, UJC Jewish Family Services Director. "The generosity shown by our community members has been truly inspiring. Thanks to their donations, numerous families were able to celebrate Passover with traditional foods and the dignity of choice."

This thoughtful partnership and the outpouring of support demonstrated the strength and compassion of the Virginia Peninsula community, reinforcing the powerful impact that can be made when organizations and individuals work together toward a common goal.



Sarfan Center Celebrates Grandparents Day with Musical Extravaganza



The Sarfan Center recently hosted its annual Grandparents Day celebration, where preschool students delighted 123 grandparents and “grandfriends” with a dazzling musical revue.

The young performers took their special guests on an unforgettable journey through song,

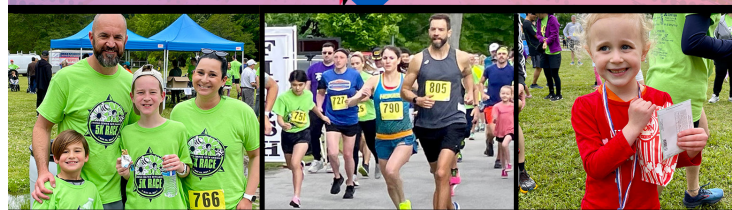


dance and storytelling, showcasing their talents and bringing smiles to all in attendance. Following the heartwarming performances, everyone gathered to enjoy a delicious catered lunch provided by Gidi Gourmet.



This special program was dedicated to celebrating the love shared between generations and honoring the profound

impact family members make in children’s lives. The event perfectly captured the Sarfan Center’s commitment to nurturing family bonds and creating meaningful memories that will last a lifetime.



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Join us for our 39th race year!

PLACE: Mariners’ Museum Southern Route
(across from Warwick High School)



TIME:

8am - Registration
9am - 1 Mile Fun Run
9:30am - 5K Run/Walk
10:30am - 50 Yard Dash

ENTRY:

Pre-Registration (by 5/1)
1 Mile - \$15 | 5K - \$25
Regular Registration (after 5/1)
1 Mile - \$20 | 5K - \$30

FOR COURSE MAPS, RACE FAQs & SPONSORSHIP INFO VISIT
ujcvp.org/sarfan-center-5k

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Stop by the youth table at the race for an ice cream treat and fun giveaways!



REGISTER TODAY!
ujcvp.org/sarfan-center-5k



May 2nd
Angela Morris
UJC Controller



June 2nd
Libby Batten
Jewish Family Services Director



May 5th
John Donnell
UJC Maintenance Supervisor



June 17th
Linda Tompkins
Sarfan Center Mazel Tots teacher



May 21st
Maya Yartsev
Sarfan Center Pre-K teacher



June 28th
Becca Price
Sarfan Center Pre-K assistant teacher

CNU Hillel came together for a beautiful Passover potluck celebration! Students shopped, cooked and shared a meaningful festive meal together. From chopping veggies to preparing traditional dishes, everyone pitched in to make this special tradition come alive. So proud of our students for creating this warm community experience and keeping our holiday traditions vibrant!



Bringing Antisemitism to the Forefront: A Critical Conversation at the Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference

In an era marked by increasing polarization and a troubling rise in hate incidents, the Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference served as a powerful reminder that meaningful change begins with courageous conversations. One such conversation took center stage on April 16, when the UJCVP sponsored a timely and impactful session titled “Understanding Antisemitism: History, Impact, and Strategies for Allyship.”

Far from a niche issue, antisemitism is a persistent form of hatred with deep historical roots and dangerous modern-day implications. Yet, as panelists and attendees explored during the session, it is often left out of broader social justice discourse.

This gathering marked a critical shift—bringing antisemitism out of the shadows and into the public square, where it can be challenged with the urgency and clarity it deserves.

The panel featured thought leaders from academia and community leadership, including Eric Maurer (CEO of UJCVP), Meagan Starks (Director of the Hampton Roads Program at the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities), and Dr. Amy Milligan (Director of the Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Dialogue at Old Dominion University). Each panelist brought unique insights into the ways antisemitism operates in our society—from dog whistles in political discourse to overt acts of violence—and how it often intersects with other



forms of oppression. One of the most powerful themes to emerge from the discussion was the importance of leaning into difficult conversations. Talking about antisemitism, like many topics tied to identity and oppression, can be

uncomfortable. But as the session made clear, discomfort is often the first step toward understanding—and understanding is the foundation of allyship.

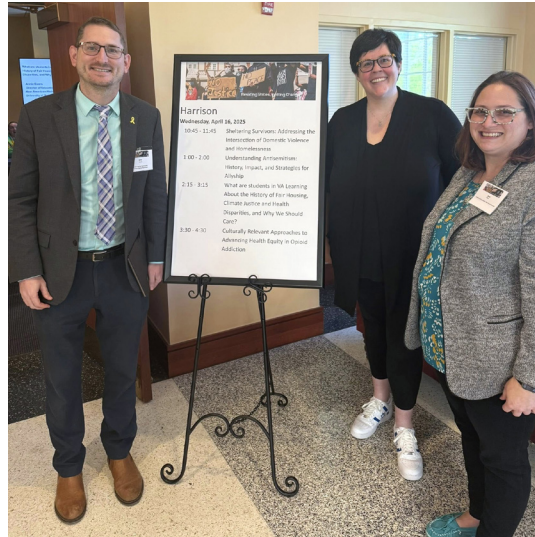
As Maurer noted, “We cannot address what we are unwilling to name. Silence in the face of antisemitism, whether from ignorance or fear, enables its persistence.” His words struck a chord with many in the audience, reminding participants that true allyship requires more than passive support. It requires learning, listening, and taking tangible steps to confront hate, even—and especially—when it’s not directed at oneself.

Milligan provided a valuable historical lens, tracing the evolution of antisemitism and demonstrating how past narratives still inform present-day prejudice. Meanwhile, Starks emphasized the importance of inclusion and coalition-building in anti-hate efforts.

Attendees walked away with more than just knowledge—they gained practical tools. From strategies for interrupting antisemitic speech to frameworks for inclusive policy-making, the session empowered individuals and organizations alike to be more effective allies. Most importantly, it reinforced the idea that addressing antisemitism is not an optional or tangential aspect of social justice work—it is central to it.

By bringing this conversation to the forefront of a major regional conference, the UJCVP and its partners helped create a model for what meaningful engagement can look like. In doing so, they reminded us all that if we are serious about building an equitable society, we must be willing to confront all forms of hate—including those that have too often been overlooked.

As the broader social justice movement continues to evolve, events like this offer hope that we can build a more inclusive and united front—one that sees the fight against antisemitism not as a side note, but as a vital part of the struggle for justice for all.



Summer Camp Chaverim - Naioki Wood



Goodbye
screen
time...



Hello
summer
adventures!

Join us for our upcoming Camp Chaverim events! RSVPs Required!

Camp Chaverim Book Swap

May 4th
1:00-2:00pm

Visit our campus to learn more about Camp Chaverim 2025 and bring a book to swap with a friend! (Parents, we encourage you to do the same!)

RSVP:
ujcwp.org/camp-chaverim

CAMP CHAVERIM

OPEN HOUSE AND Father's Day BBQ

June 15th, 12-2pm

Meet the summer camp staff, pick up your camp shirts and handbooks, connect with friends and enjoy a special Father's Day BBQ!

RSVP: UJCWP.ORG/CAMP-CHAVERIM



The need for blood
doesn't take a spring break



Red Cross Blood Drives at the UJC

Fri. May 30th, 10am-2pm

Thurs. June 5th, 10am-2pm

*One pint of blood can save up to
three lives!*

Schedule an appointment at
ujcvp.org

Questions? Email Sara Traster
straster@ujcvp.org

UJCVP ANNUAL MEETING 2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
7:00 PM

Dessert reception
following meeting

Come together to honor the achievements of the UJCVP
while acknowledging the essential contribution each of
us makes in developing and
maintaining our vibrant
community.

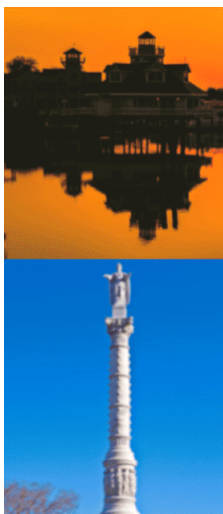
- Our Year in Review
- Community Recognitions
- Awards & Honors

PLEASE RSVP

757-930-1422



ujcvp.org



Thank you to everyone who voted for our amazing Camp Chaverim Summer Camp!

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



On June 2nd, we celebrate Shavuos, the giving of the Torah and the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. On July 4th, we celebrate the Declaration of Independence. Without the principles expounded in the Ten Commandments, the underlying concepts of the Declaration of Independence would not exist.

The Ten Commandments, for the first time in human history, introduced the concept of monotheism and set a moral and ethical blueprint for human behavior. Prior to the Ten Commandments, cultures had no such boundaries.

Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration, opined that all men have the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Both the Ten Commandments and the Declaration recognize the inherent value of humanity. We honor that concept.

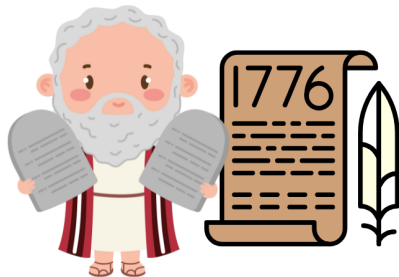
Candle Lighting Times:

May 2 - 7:37pm May 9 - 7:43pm
May 16 - 7:49pm May 23 - 7:55pm
May 30 - 8:00pm

June 1 - 8:01pm (Shavuos)
June 2 - 9:05pm (Shavuos)
June 6 - 8:04pm June 13 - 8:07pm
June 20 - 8:11pm June 27 - 8:11pm

Rabbi Litt's Shabbos Schedule:

May 24, June 14, July 12, Aug. 2



At the moment there is no sponsor for the Kiddush lunch for May 24th. If you are interested please contact Meryl Kessler at 203-246-4052. The June 14th. Kiddush will be sponsored by Ernestine Adleman in memory of her husband, Howard Adleman.

The last Blockbuster Torah presentation by Adath Jeshurun will be on May 7th at 6:30pm at the UJC. Rabbi Gershon Litt will lead the discussion of Jewish themes and lessons straight out of the Torah from the movie INSIDE OUT 2.

Kibbitz & Create

Thursdays: May 29th & June 26th
10am-12pm

Join us for a delightful morning of chatting, crafting and snacking! Simply come with your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or any other fiber project you are working on, and enjoy the company of fellow crafters in a relaxed atmosphere. (No instruction provided.)

RSVP at ujcvp.org

Questions? Email Jessi Malkin: jmalkin@ujcvp.org





SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES.



Services – 10:00AM



Light kiddish – 11:30 AM



ChabadWilliamsburg.org



757-929-4999



Congregation
Emet V'Or

Truth and Light in the Reform Tradition

Congregation Emet V'Or (CEVO) strives to be a supportive community and a meaningful place for Jewish people, their families and those who desire to learn about the Jewish faith. At CEVO we worship G-d in accordance with the faith of Judaism.

Weekly Shabbat Services

7:00 PM-8:30 PM

05/02/2025-Lay Led
05/09/2025-Rabbi led
05/16/2025-Rabbi led
05/23/2025-Shabbat in the home
05/30/2025-Lay led
06/06/2025-Cantor led
06/13/2025-Rabbi led
06/20/2025-Lay led
06/27/2025-Lay led

In-Person & Virtual

Religious School
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Last Day of School
05/04/2025

Events

Shavout & Confirmation
Ceremony
11:00
06/01/2025

Board Meetings
05/12/2025
06/09/2025

101 Production Drive
Suite 101
Yorktown, VA 23693

(757) 930-3737
office.cevo@gmail.com



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!*



Upcoming Events:

Tuesdays at Noon - Ethics of Our Ancestors
May 9th - Congregational Dinner
May 10th - Shabbat Shmooze
May 16th - Lag B'Omer Student Event
May 30th - Confirmation
June 2nd - Shavuot Day 1 Services at 9:30 a.m.
June 3rd - Shavuot Day 2 Services at 9:30 a.m.
June 13th - Congregational Dinner
June 14th - Shabbat Shmooze
June 22nd - Hebrew Literacy Marathon
June 22nd - Mahjong Class

In-Person and Zoom Services:

Minyan: Monday & Thursday @ 7:45am
Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday @ 6:00pm
Shabbat Morning Services: Saturday @ 9:30am

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

Shabbat Service Schedule

| May | June |
|------------------------|---|
| 2 - School Shabbat | 6 - Kabbalat Shabbat with the Halyo Singers |
| 9 - Shabbat Kulanu | 7 - Shabbat Shacharit |
| 10 - Shabbat Shacharit | 13 - Kabbalat Shabbat |
| 16 - Kabbalat Shabbat | 20 - Shabbat Kulanu |
| 17 - Shabbat Shacharit | 21 - Shabbat Shacharit |
| 23 - Kabbalat Shabbat | 27 - Kabbalat Shabbat |
| 30 - Kabbalat Shabbat | |

Kulanu: 6:30 pm, Kabbalat: 7:30 pm, Shacharit 10 am

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO RSVP TO ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS,
OR FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES,
PLEASE CONTACT OFFICE@TBWILLIAMSBURG.ORG

SPRING AT

TEMPLE BETH EL

OF WILLIAMSBURG

TBE-W Night at Plumeri Park
Wednesday, May 7th, 6:00 p.m.
\$15 per person (includes \$10 in food credit)
Children under 3 are free!
All kids can run the bases after the game.
With 30 TBE-W attendees, Rabbi David will throw out the first pitch!

Sunday Lecture Series
Come hear exciting and relevant lectures,
member autobiographies, and more!
May 18, June 22, June 29

TBE-W Book Club
Discuss books written by, for, or about Jews.
May 11: A Scholar's Odyssey
June 8: As a Driven Leaf

Shavuot Celebration
Join us Sunday, June 1, at 7:00 p.m. for a
dairy potluck and study session!
SHAVOUT
Anyone interested can lead a 10-20 minute
teaching about the Jewish text of their
choice. Please contact Rabbi David if you'd
like to lead a session.

26th Annual Ali Kaplan Memorial Blood Drive
Sunday, May 4th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
at 600 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg

Register at redcrossblood.org
be a HERO Sponsor Code: TempleB

TBE School Registration
Registration for TBE School 5786 opens in May.
• Energetic community
• Meets Sundays mornings
• Students in grades K-7
• Classes taught by William & Mary students
• Curriculum from Institute of Southern Jewish Life
Contact School@tbewilliamsburg.org
Also ask about Parent & Me for 5 & under!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TempleBethElOFWilliamsburg) TempleBethElOFWilliamsburg [@TBewilliamsburg](https://www.instagram.com/TBewilliamsburg)



Temple Sinai

Founded 1955

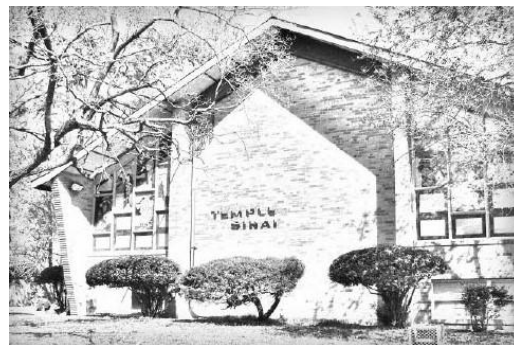
11620 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, VA 23601
757-596-8352

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, May 2nd, 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat/Yom HaAtzmaut Service
- Saturday, May 10th, 10:00 a.m.- Shabbat Service of Healing & Kiddush lunch
- Saturday, May 17th, 10:00 a.m.. – Religious School Shabbat Service & Kiddush lunch

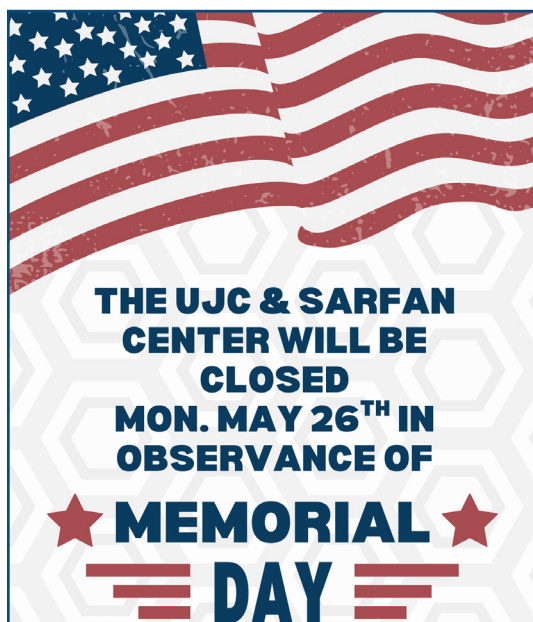
- Friday, May 23rd, 7:30 p.m.- Kabbalat Shabbat Service (Zoom only)
- Friday, May 30th, 7:30 pm. - Kabbalat Shabbat/Shavuot Service & Oneg
- Friday, June 6th, 5:00 p.m.- Abridged Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Dinner & Movie
- Saturday, June 14th, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat New Member Service & Kiddush lunch

- Friday, June 20th, 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Malachim Service & Oneg
- Saturday, June 28th, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service & Kiddush lunch

Members' Event

Sunday, June 8, 10 am – Annual Congregation Meeting
Noon – Party to celebrate our 70th Anniversary & 30th Anniversary of our Sanctuary Windows

It was an incredible afternoon with Israeli band, Hashayara Project, celebrating Israel's Independence Day! So many community members came together to create a living bridge between our Virginia Peninsula and Israel.



Make a Plan—and Make Your Favorite Charities Part of It

At some point during your adult life, you've likely realized that it would be wise to put in place a will, trust, and powers of attorney, as well as undertake at least a basic level of financial planning to stay on track with retirement and other wealth-related goals for yourself and for your family. Perhaps you're also among the many people who have thoughtfully incorporated charitable giving strategies into a comprehensive financial and estate plan.

If you've not yet wrapped charitable giving provisions into your will, trust, and financial plans, it's never too late (or too early) to do so. The UJCVP Endowment is happy to work with you and your legal, tax, and wealth advisors to set up charitable giving structures and processes that align with your intentions to support favorite charities and causes, as well as reinforce the tax and estate planning objectives you've set in motion.

Indeed, formalizing your charitable intentions can bring a deep sense of purpose. By incorporating charitable giving into your estate plan, your values and philanthropic commitments can continue beyond your lifetime.

What's more, lifetime charitable giving can be part of a strategic wealth management plan, allowing you to optimize your financial resources while supporting causes you care about. For example, charitable income tax deductions for your donations may reduce your taxable income and lower your annual tax bill. Plus, donating appreciated assets, such as publicly-traded stock held for more than one year, can help you avoid capital gains taxes. In addition, dollars flowing to charities following your death can help minimize the burden of estate taxes.

The UJCVP Endowment would be honored to help you develop a philanthropy plan, starting with lifetime giving and incorporating estate gifts as your legacy intentions take shape. As you consider whether the time might be right for you to formalize your charitable giving, here are three tips to consider—all of which the UJCVP Endowment can help you achieve:

Give to what you know. Most people experience the greatest joy from giving to causes that are personally familiar. Personal experience makes it easier to understand how the charity is using your dollars. So, for example, if you've had experience with helping foster children, you are likely to understand how the organization is using your donation to support

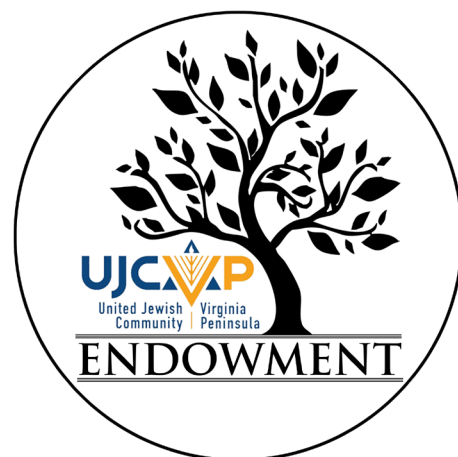
training for foster parents. Please ask the UJCVP Endowment for insights! It's our job to keep up with the good work of charities that are meeting local needs.

Give where you are. Even with the increasing number of community challenges across the country and the globe, sometimes the greatest needs are right here at home. The UJCVP Endowment can help you identify opportunities to support local charities by gathering information about the overall need and how a particular charity addresses that need. When you give to local organizations, you are in a strong position to have confidence in your gift.

Give to the causes you love. Donations to charities that are aligned with your own passions make you feel the best and ultimately make the most difference because you're likely to continue giving. The UJCVP Endowment is here to help bring your community dreams to life through the power of philanthropy. And that feels great!

If you've already established a donor-advised fund or other type of fund with the UJCVP Endowment, or if you are considering getting started with the UJCVP Endowment this year, we are here for you! We are honored to serve as your home for charitable giving. Our team looks forward to hearing from you.

Endowment@ujcvp.org



Record Number of Peninsula Youth Set for Transformative Jewish Summer Experiences



this year, marking our community's highest participation to date.

For over a decade, the UJC staff members have been steadfast in their commitment to building a culture of Jewish overnight camping. This dedication was further solidified in 2019 when the UJC partnered with One Happy Camper and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, making grants available to first-time campers. To date, nearly 30 local kids have benefited from this grant, with many choosing to return to camp year after year.



One Happy Camper offers grants based on how many days a child will attend a sleepaway program.

For the past six years, grants of \$700-\$1000 have been offered. This year, due to increased costs associated with the camping experience and a new partnership with One Happy Camper, the UJC is proud to offer increased grants of \$1000-\$1500 for first-time attendees.

In addition to expanding the UJC grant pool, One Happy Camper provided the UJC with a grant to assist in promoting and expanding camp marketing. "This extra cushion meant more swag and fun for Peninsula kids at our Hanukkah celebrations and an epic addition to the Purim carnival this year!" explains Jessi Malkin, Director of Campaign and Community Impact at the UJC. "We were also able to partner with our synagogues to promote camps within the different movements and reach new families."

Each congregation was offered a Mini Camp Shabbat grant to use as they saw fit to engage with families and to share past camper experiences with a new generation. "It was great to see all the vintage camp shirts and color wars

outfits at Shabbat services; it was fun to dress to a theme," shared one congregant.

Overnight camp is not everyone's happy place; for teens looking for a shorter experience, the JCC Maccabi Games promote the same feeling of K'lal Yisroel (Jewish Peoplehood) in a shorter duration. While the games focus on athletics, not all participants are there to compete. The addition of the Maccabi Star Reporter program allows teens to work closely with professionals in the journalism field, learning interview, reporting and editing skills during the week-long games.



Teen youth group conventions provide a similar feeling with less time away and often in much more lavish accommodations than traditional summer camps. The UJC is proud to support teens attending regional or national events regardless of affiliation or denomination. This winter, Kamea Henderson attended BBYO International Convention in Denver, CO. "I've never been someplace where everyone is Jewish and that was a cool experience,



to be surrounded by people where everyone has that in common and was proud of it," Henderson reflected. "I went [to IC] not really knowing anyone or anything but I learned a lot and made friends from all around the world, who I am so excited to see next year!"

Living in a small community, while cozy and intimate, does not always allow our kids to truly feel a Jewish peer connection. These larger Jewish peer gatherings encourage youth to engage in their Jewish journeys in a way that cannot be replicated in a classroom or congregation.

A rich tapestry of Jewish experiences is available for every age, interest, and individual. Whether it's an overnight camp, a sports event like the JCC Maccabi Games, or a teen youth group convention, there's something for everyone. If you need assistance finding the perfect experience for you or someone in your life, please don't hesitate to contact Jessi Malkin at jmalkin@ujcvp.org.

UJC Pearl Society Hosts “Pearl Birthday Bash” Social Action Party



The UJC Pearl Society recently hosted its annual social action party, bringing together women from across the community for an evening of mitzvah and merriment. This year’s event, dubbed the “Pearl Birthday Bash,” focused

on assembling birthday kits for THRIVE Peninsula, a local non-profit organization that supports families in need.

Members of the Pearl Society, along with women from throughout the community, generously donated cake mixes, icing, sprinkles, candles, party plates, balloons and decorations. Working together, the ladies assembled an impressive 87 complete birthday kits that will bring joy to children and families served by THRIVE Peninsula.



“I love the year-end themed party when we gather to put together or collect items for that year’s social cause; it’s so satisfying,” said Janice Rockwell, who joined Pearl in 2023.



After completing their mitzvah project, the ladies celebrated their accomplishment with hilarious party games and enjoyed cake and ice cream.

Sara Traster, Pearl Society Director, expressed her

enthusiasm: “The social action party is truly the highlight of our year. The overwhelming support from our community of women is inspiring, and there’s something magical about coming together to make a difference. We’re fulfilling our mission of tikkun olam (repairing the world) while creating joyful memories together.”

The Pearl Society, which began in 2018, hosts a social action party each spring, benefiting a local non-profit organization as part of their commitment to tzedakah (charitable giving) and gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness).

In addition to the yearly social action party, what makes the UJC Pearl Society unique is its

incorporation of a giving circle component. Each year, the members meet to discuss and select various organizations to receive their collective tzedakah: two local non-profit organizations, two national, and two international causes. The giving circle approach embodies the Jewish principle that collective action magnifies individual impact.



Tova Warren, an original member of the group, reflected on her experience: “Being a part of Pearl Society is really rewarding and allows me to give back in a Jewish way to meaningful organizations.”

This year, the Pearl Society has grown to include 31 Pearls – women committed to making a difference through Jewish values and community action.

For those interested in learning more about the Pearl Society or joining this meaningful group of women dedicated to spreading good throughout the world, please contact Sara Traster at straster@ujcvp.org.



UVA Joins Hillel International's Flagship Campus Climate Initiative



Campus administrators will receive training and resources to counter antisemitism and create an inclusive and safe environment for Jewish students

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – As Jewish college students across North America experience unprecedented levels of antisemitism on campus, the University of Virginia (UVA) has joined Hillel International's flagship Campus Climate Initiative (CCI) program. Hillel's CCI program is the nation's leading training and engagement program for college and university administrators to address the alarming rise in antisemitism on campus.

In a unique effort to strengthen ties among university leaders, Hillel International, and the Brody Jewish Center (Hillel at UVA), CCI will provide tools to address the challenge of antisemitism on Grounds and to ensure a safe climate for UVA's Jewish students where they can feel safe and confident expressing their identity and values across Grounds.

Annie Weinberg, Executive Director of the Brody Jewish Center, said, "Over the last year and a half we have identified significant areas of growth for the University of Virginia when it comes to supporting a sense of belonging and respect for our students in the community. These growth opportunities include more training for leadership on Jewish identity and experience as well as ensuring that Jewish students are a respected voice in the UVA community and among their peers. I'm grateful to be working in partnership with key UVA administrators over the next ten months, with a constant focus on our goal of establishing tangible ways to improve the campus climate for Jewish students and all students in the coming years.

With the addition of the 18 participants in the latest cohort, more than 102 schools across the United States and Canada have now participated in the CCI program. We are proud that the University of Virginia has decided to be a part of the 102 schools on the frontier of combating antisemitism on campus.

As part of CCI, University of Virginia officials will create a meaningful action plan to combat antisemitism on campus. It is structured to align with the University of Virginia's longstanding commitment to creating welcoming campus environments for all students in order to ensure that Jewish students and their needs are integrated into any broader university efforts to combat bias and discrimination.

More information about CCI and participating universities can be found on the website: hillel.org/campus-climate-initiative/

.....

The UJCVP is proud to be a partner of Hillel at UVA and support them with an annual allocation from the Annual Campaign. This wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the Jewish community.

The Brody Jewish Center, Hillel at the University of Virginia, is the focal point of Jewish life for the estimated 1,000 Jewish undergraduates on Grounds. Building upon UVA's strong tradition of student leadership, the Brody Jewish Center actively and successfully empowers Jewish students to create relevant and meaningful Jewish experiences focused on education, empowerment, and community.

The University of Virginia is an iconic public institution of higher education, boasting nationally ranked schools and programs, diverse and distinguished faculty, a major academic medical center, and a proud history as a renowned research university. The community and culture of the University are enriched by active student self-governance, sustained commitment to the arts, and a robust NCAA Division I Athletics program.

Hillel
Campus Climate Initiative

Rabbi Yehiel Poupko: A Jewish appreciation of Pope Francis



Pope Francis prays as he holds an envelope before placing it in the cracks between the stones of the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray, in the old city of Jerusalem, Israel, on May 26, 2014.

On Sept. 11, 2014, at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Chicago, Cardinal Francis George told the audience: “Before I went to the Conclave of the College of Cardinals this past February to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI, I asked Rabbi Poupko, ‘What would the Jewish community like to see in the next pope?’ He answered: ‘We need a pope who knows us.’”

This is who was elected pope. As archbishop of Buenos Aires, then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio attended Rosh Hashanah services at the Benei Tikva synagogue in September 2007. Bergoglio told the congregation that he was there “like a pilgrim, together with you, my elder brothers.”

In 2010, Rabbi Abraham Skorka and Bergoglio began memorializing their two decades of conversation in a book. Friends since 1990, the two had much to share. In the introduction to the book they co-wrote, “On Heaven and Earth,” Francis described their friendship: “With Rabbi Skorka I never had to compromise my Catholic identity, just like he never had to with his Jewish identity.”

The Jewish people have good memories of Francis. One of the gestures of Francis’ friendship with the Jewish people came early in his papacy. In 2013, in a letter to journalist Eugenio Scalfari in the Italian newspaper *la Repubblica*, Francis responded to the question: “What we should say to our Jewish brothers about the promise made to them by God: Has it all come to nothing?”

“This question, believe me, is a radical one for us Christians because with the help of God, especially in the light of the Second Vatican Council, we

have rediscovered that the Jewish people remain for us the holy root from which Jesus was born. I too have cultivated many friendships through the years with my Jewish brothers in Argentina and often while in prayer, as my mind turned to the terrible experience of the Shoah, I looked to God,” he wrote.

“God has never neglected his faithfulness to the covenant with Israel, and that, through the awful trials of these last centuries, the Jews have preserved their faith in God. And for this, we, the Church and the whole human family, can never be sufficiently grateful to them.”

As the Germans murdered 6 million Jews, most of Christendom collaborated actively or passively with Nazism. In that time, the Jewish people gave witness to the one God. We alone were the sole sacred witness to the one God. Francis deepened that because he did not limit admiration and respect for Jewish witness to the period of the Shoah. He refers to “the terrible trials of these centuries” in which “the Jews have kept their faith in God.” He refers to the torment inflicted upon us by the Catholic Church and the Reformation churches throughout the ages. He affirms that the church and all of humanity will “never be sufficiently grateful to them.” The pope affirms that Israel provided unique witness to the one God; that this unique witness came despite all the torment; and that Israel’s faithfulness to the one God is a gift both to the church and to humanity. This is a remarkable affirmation of Judaism and the Jewish people.

People do not often pay enough attention to performance theology. Instead of issuing formal statements and teachings in well-reasoned theological papers, occasionally a pope will act out, will express in behavior, a religious idea.

In an act of performance theology while in Israel in 2014, Francis visited the grave of Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, the Jewish national liberation movement.

The honor paid Herzl at his last resting place is compelling. One hundred and 10 years earlier, on Jan. 26, 1904, Herzl had an audience with Pope Pius X. Herzl sought the pope’s support for Zionism. The pope replied, “We cannot give approval to this movement. We cannot prevent the Jews from going to Jerusalem — but we could never sanction it. The soil of Jerusalem ... has been sanctified by the life of Jesus Christ. As the Head of the Church, I cannot tell you anything different. The Jews have not

recognized our Lord, therefore we cannot recognize the Jewish people.”

Pius X established what was the popular and official Christian attitude to Zionism and the establishment of the state of Israel. Christian theology has had a difficult time accounting for the Jewish return to the ancient homeland.

Francis’ act of honor and respect to Herzl and to Zionism demonstrated that the Roman Catholic Church no longer holds any theological objection to the Jewish return to sovereignty in the ancient homeland.

In every relationship, there are disappointments. It is because of Francis’ friendship extended to the Jewish people that several of his statements on Israel’s war to prevent Hamas from annihilating Israel were received with pain.

The Jewish people will remember that as the sun set on Passover, Francis departed this life. He left behind the great Passover legacy, to ever seek freedom from slavery; to ever fulfill the mitzvah (commandment) to take care of the poor and the stranger.

In these days following his passing, we know that his abiding friendship for us will never be forgotten. Judaism holds that good deeds will ever endure. This is his gift and legacy.

Rabbi Yehiel Poupko is a Rabbinic scholar at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago

.....



CELEBRATE LIFE.

Leave all the planning to your trusted funeral provider.
Visit our website to learn more.

PeninsulaFuneralHome.com
757-595-4424

11144 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, VA





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

Electronic Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newport News, VA
Permit No.10

UJCVP Community May/June 2025 Calendar

Thursday, May 1, 2025

11am - Grand Club/Bingo
6pm - Dinner & Discuss:
Modern Jewish Identities

Sunday, May 4, 2025

1pm - Camp Chaverim
Meet & Greet Book Swap

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

4:30pm - Hebrew School

Thursday, May 8, 2025

11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

4:30pm - Last Day of
Hebrew School

Thursday, May 15, 2025

11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Sunday, May 18, 2025

9am - Sarfan Center 5K
& 1 Mile Fun Run

Thursday, May 22, 2025

11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Monday, May 26, 2025

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

6:35pm - Jewish American
Heritage Night @ Harbor Park

Thursday, May 29, 2025

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

Friday, May 30, 2025

10am-2pm - Red
Cross Blood Drive

Monday, June 2, 2025

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

UJC CLOSED
SARFAN CENTER CLOSED

Thursday, June 5, 2025

10am-2pm - Red
Cross Blood Drive
11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Thursday, June 12, 2025

11am - Grand Club/Bingo
7pm - UJC Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 15, 2025

12pm - Camp Chaverim Open
House & Father's Day BBQ

Thursday, June 19, 2025

11am - Grand Club/Bingo

Thursday, June 26, 2025

10am - Kibbitz & Create

