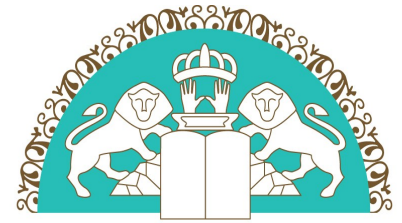


# Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

Spring / 2026



Jewish Museum & Cultural Center  
Chevra Thelim Synagogue  
1918-1986



Greetings to all:

I was delighted back in December, to return as President of the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center Board of Directors. It is an honor that I will treasure and I will strive to do my best. My term as President of the Congregation at Temple Israel ends on May 5<sup>th</sup>, allowing me to devote more time to the Jewish Museum.

We have an Executive Director; Jennifer Priest who works to maintain our building and achieve our development goals. Our Immediate Past President, Karen Plotnick, is now our secretary. Thank you, Karen, for your past two years of service as President. Ira Steingold has returned to be our Vice President and my right hand. When Ira was President, I was his Vice President. Now, the tables have turned. David Goodman has been our treasurer for a few years and continues in that role. Thanks are also extended to his wife Marian who volunteers on several of our committees. We have a terrific board of Directors.

This past January, we held a phenomenal cinema series co-chaired by Rabbi Michael Panitz and Dr. Peter Schulman, and assisted by Mark Solberg, who selected many great movies. Thanks to Ben McCormick who ran our DVD player and donated a brand-new Blu Ray DVD player. Thank you to all of you.

Our Arthur Z. Steinger Lecture Series featured four outstanding speakers: Retired Vice Admiral Herm Shelanski, Rabbi Irv Ellson, Greg Eatroff and Rabbi Michael Panitz. Thank you to all of you for participating. We also had a successful Spring Daffodil Day program on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We once again honored and memorialized the 1.5 million children killed in the Shoah. Rabbi Shlomo Eisenberg, B'nai Israel Congregation, did the opening prayer and Rabbi Jacob Herber, Congregation Beth El, did the closing prayer. Thank you to Julie Kievit from Jewish Family Service who gave a beautiful speech about the ways in which JFS supports children of all religions in the community. Thank you to Marian Goodman and David Goodman for spearheading this event.

Our music series begins on July 8 and concludes with a special concert dedicated to the memory of founding board member Minette Cooper on August 26. Thanks to Rick Rivin and the Music Committee, we have a terrific program lined up.

Please visit us on [Facebook](#) to keep up to date on our programs. Make sure to read the article about our building exterior project. Our goal is \$25,000 and there are several ways you can support this effort. Remember to buy your paver! Bricks are \$144 and are personalized to remember loved ones as well as marking happy milestones. We are over halfway to our 100 paver goal. Please see any board member for information or contact the museum.

Hoping to see all of you at the music series and other events.

Warmly,  
Norman David Soroko  
JMCC President.

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## Mission Statement:

**“To present an environment where visitors and the community can celebrate and learn about Jewish history, faith, and culture.”**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHEVRA T'HELM, INC.

<b>President:</b>	Norman Soroko	Sara Kruger
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ira Steingold	Ronald Reshefsky
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Goodman	Rick Rivin
<b>Secretary:</b>	Karen Plotnick	Paula Russel
Herbert Brewer		Richard Yanku
Greg Eatroff		<b>Advisory Board</b>
Helen B. Glassman		Max Greenhood
Barbara Johnson		Anne Lyons
Edward Kramer		Marilyn S. Siegel
		Kathryn J. Wolf

Thank you to the Cinema Committee: Dr. Peter Schulman; Rabbi Michael Panitz; Mary Barnes; Mark Solberg and our new AV guru, Ben McCormick. who made our January 2026 Cinema Series a grand success. Despite the three weather induced rescheduling episodes, we had a total of 127 patrons during the run of the series. We collected a total of \$547. Thank you to the Portsmouth Museum and Fine Arts Commission for supporting this year's series.



## A Reminder about the “*Rivin Circle*”

National statistics show that less than 8 percent of Americans ever think to put a gift for charity in their wills or other estate plans. You can plan a legacy gift which will offer thoughtful and creative ways to prepare for the future, while generously supporting the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center (JMCC) in Portsmouth, VA. Join the “*Rivin Circle*,” and leave a legacy that reflects your passion and remains an inspiration for generations to come.

Your gift can support any aspect of the JMCC—including:

- Expansion and care of our archives
- Curatorial research and exhibition development
- New program development
- Region-wide educational initiatives
- Capital improvements to our existing historic structure

Whether you wish to put your donation to work today or benefit the JMCC after your lifetime, the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center is committed to developing planned gifts that are meaningful to each donor, and tailored to fit their financial and estate-planning goals.

You can join the “*Rivin Circle*” by making a legacy gift that supports JMCC’s future. To learn how, please contact the Museum - 757-391-9266 or [jmccportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:jmccportsmouth@gmail.com).

**Preserving the past for  
our future.**

Currently the Rivin Circle has 6  
members who have committed to the  
future!

Won't you consider joining?

# Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

## Zelma G. Rivin Wonderful Wednesdays 2026 Summer Music Series



**July 8**  
**Trio Sefardi**

**Music of the Sefardim**

*Traditional songs from the descendants of Jews exiled from Spain in 1492, with an emphasis on the Bosnian singer and composer Flory Jagoda.*



**July 15**  
**Lenore Raphael**  
**Duo**

**Jazz Pianist**

*Join us as we bring the house down with internationally renowned jazz pianist Lenore Raphael with songs from the Great American Songbook.*



**July 29**  
**Troy Breslow**

**Local Country Musician!**

*Hometown, Orthodox, and award-winning, music artist Troy Breslow is bringing Country Music to the Jewish Museum & Cultural Center!*



**August 19**  
**Junwen Liang**

**Classical Solo Pianist**

*Classical piano at its most beautiful, as Junwen Liang presents Echos Across Horizons: American Voices in Classical Piano.*



**August 26**  
**Chuck Woodward**  
**and Friends**

**Concert Dedicated to Minette Cooper**

*Local musician and maestro Chuck Woodward will be joined by a quartet of Virginia Chorale singers as they present A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters and American Songs for our final concert of the 2026 season.*

**ALL CONCERTS BEGIN AT 7:30 PM**  
**\$35 PER CONCERT (\$40 AT THE DOOR)**  
**\$120 FOR THE SERIES OF 5**

**Jewish Museum & Cultural Center**  
**607 Effingham Street, Portsmouth**

Purchase your tickets [HERE](#)  
or visit [www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org](http://www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org)



*The 2026 Music Series is  
sponsored in part by:*



# Contributions January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

## GENERAL

Susan Bore	Barbara Johnson	Ben Simon
Brith Sholom	Kay Zedd Kesser	Britt Simon
James Eilberg	Bernard Kopelove	Mark Solberg
Karen Gilbert	Ed Kramer	Norman Soroko
Helen Glassman	Fred Levitin	Ira Steingold
David Goodman	Scott Orlins	Ellen Upton
Steve & Sally Herman	Karen Plotnick	Richard Yanku
Gordon Howard	Rick Rivin	Lisa Zeevi

## IN HONORARIUM

### RICK RIVIN

Marilyn Bunn  
Paula Russel  
Kitty Wolf

## IN MEMORIAM

### MANUEL WYRON & DOROTHY FARFEL WYRON

Cheri Levin

## EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE MATCH

Steve and Sally Herman  
Hill House Museum  
Nancy Kanter  
Bonnie Kerner  
Ed Kramer  
Lawrence Steingold

## APPRENTICE PAINTERS

Anonymous  
David and Ellen Brewer  
Sarah Davis  
Carole Duckett  
Friend  
Ron King  
Mary Lauer  
Sandy Levin  
Theresa MacCall  
Stephanie Mandel  
Debra Moore  
Elizabeth Murphy  
Nancy Perry  
Karen Plotnick  
Rick Rivin  
Paula Russel  
Margaret Sawyer  
Kathleen Shevlin  
Marilyn Siegel

As we expand The Daffodil Project, we are offering pavers for sale. They can be inscribed as a memorial or a celebration of life. The goal is to sell 100 pavers, providing a 10' x 10" area to use for outdoor programs. To date we have sold 56. We are over half-way to our goal. Buy your paver today!

Details can be located at this website:

[Donate to Friends of Chevra](#)



[Theliam d/b/a Jewish Museum Brick Fundraising Campaign](#)

## The Jewish Museum and Cultural Center



is a 501 ( C ) ( 3 ) non-profit organization and contributions are tax-exempt.



## 2026 Cinema Series is in the books!

What a series! We have a movie and great snacks each Saturday in the month of January. The films are past gems, some fairly recent, others from history, and some overlooked in their prime, but have withstood the test of time. A first for this year, Portsmouth Museums and Fine Arts Commission provided a \$1,500 grant to help underwrite the cost of this beloved program staple.



We thank the Arts Commission for their support of the Jewish Museum. We also thank Sheriff Moore for providing security for each screening. Mother Nature was not as accommodating. The January Cinema Series concluded on March 7, thanks to three storms that failed to produce the predicted Snowmageddon.

Our faithful Cinema Series Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Schulman and Rabbi Michale Panitz, with support from Mary Barnes, Ben McCormick, and Mark Solberg crafted an outstanding program. This year's series included *Woman in Gold*; *Defiance*; *The Band's Visit* and *Cast A Giant Shadow*.



Our fifth film was scheduled to be *8 1/2* and serve as a tribute to Tim Cooper, of blessed memory, an icon in Hampton Roads regarding all things cinema. Due to the storms, that date was moved twice and on the set date, we experienced bitter cold. We also discovered that without the remote for the DVD player, we were unable to select the subtitles option (*8 1/2* was made in Italian). BUT—thanks to former Coast Guard officer Mark Solberg (*Semper Paratus*— which translates from Latin to "Always Ready") we had an emergency DVD—*Denial*. We believe that Tim would have appreciated the humor and excitement of the evening!

## 2026 Arthur Z. Steinberg Lecture Series Another Success!

Since 2016, our annual lecture series has been dedicated to the memory of our beloved founding Board Member, Rabbi Arthur Z. Steinberg. A series of four lectures offered over the course of two months takes place at the Museum on Sunday afternoons, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. While some years have incorporated a mix of speakers presenting via Zoom and in person, our 2026 series speakers were all presented in person.

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, this year's series examined Jewish contributions in all aspects of the military. The lectures were held between February 8 and March 29. Speakers included, Herm Shelanski, VADM, Ret ; Rabbi Irv Elson, Captain, USN, Ret; Greg Eatroff; and Rabbi Michael Panitz.

Topics ranged from Uriah P. Levy to Jewish contributions to morale both in the field of combat and on



## 2026 Spring Daffodil Day Program, March 15

Thanks are extended to our Daffodil Committee Co-Chairs, David and Marian Goodman. They planned and executed an excellent program featuring Rabbi Shlomo Eisenberg of B'nai Israel Congregation who provided the opening prayer, Rabbi Jacob Herber of Congregation Beth El will provided a closing prayer and Jewish Family Service of Tidewater, speakers Julie Kievit and Brooke Rush who addressed the needs of children in our community.





### **We Need Paint!**

by Richard Rivin, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

You read that correctly. The JMCC needs to be refreshed with a new coat of paint to enter another decade of benefit to our community. We will need 100 gallons of paint. Since our building is tall, we will also need some special equipment to reach the lowest parts of our roof to accomplish this work. We have found a painter to perform the work, but we need your help to buy the paint itself. This is part of a \$25,000 exterior maintenance project. We began work on this project in 2025. We need to complete our fundraising goal to have the project finished in 2026. This is our first big exterior project since our renovations were completed in 2008.

Since **each gallon of paint costs \$45**, we would love it if you bought a gallon of paint to help us make the JMCC sparkle. We will recognize every “gallon of paint” contribution in our next newsletter under the category of “*Apprentice Painters.*”

Simply mail a check for \$45 to: **JMCC** 607 Effingham Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. (If you can help with a five-gallon bucket of paint, make your check for \$200.) Thank you for helping to keep this one remaining reminder of Portsmouth’s Jewish past from deteriorating. This is an easy way to perform a good deed!

We have received two matching gifts for a total of \$3,800. If you are able, please consider making a gift for this match. We would love to see 10 patrons each donate \$380.

I would like to help preserve the JMCC with a special paint contribution. Enclosed please find:

One Gallon at \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Five Gallons at \$200 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Matching Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Jewish Museum  
&  
Cultural Center**

607 Effingham Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
Phone: 757-391-9266

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Permit No. 175

Visit our website:

[www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org](http://www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org)



**Upcoming Events—SAVE THE DATE!**



**April 27, 2026 7:00 pm** SJae Sinnett Jazz Masterclass for Portsmouth Public Schools High School Students-free and open to the public

**May 9, 2026 9:00 am-3:00 pm** Steeple—Steeple [Steeple to Steeple Walking Tour – City Of Portsmouth Events](#)

**May 29-June 12, 2026** -Annual Online Auction

**June 19-22, 2026** - Sail Virginia 250 [Sail Virginia Portsmouth - June 19-22, 2026](#)

**July 8, 2026 7:30 pm** - Trio Sefardi

**July 15, 2026 7:30 pm** - Lenore Raphael Duo

**July 29, 2026 7:30 pm** -Troy Breslow

**August 19, 2026 7:30 pm**- Junwen Liang

**August 26, 2026 7:30 pm** - Chuck Woodward & Friends