

lecture is entitled Jews from Arab Lands, The Forgotten Refugees.

We are planning another rummage sale for September 7, 2025.

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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."

donated to the museum. represent the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust including children worldwide who are victims of violence. We hope you will come and support this event. Our paver project is underway. Please consider purchasing a paver to memorialize a family member or person who lost their life in the Holocaust. The pavers will further enhanced as The Portsmouth Museum and Fine Arts Commission have sponsored a public mural featuring a mosaic of trees that will be installed on the side of a building facing the daffodils Keep an eye out, for our on-line silent auction in May. There will be all sorts of gift cards and items to purchase. The Zelma G. Rivin Wonderful Wednesdays Music series will begin July 30th with Francesca Hurst, pianist and classical composer, followed on August 6th by Trio Niche an ensemble specializing in the classical music period 1780-1820. On August 13 the Jae Sinnett Trio will perform. This trio has something for every serious jazz lover "from swing to fusion to funk." Bagels and Fraylox Klezmer Band will be returning on August 20th, which is always an enjoyable treat. The Jewish Museum and Cultural Center is a wonderful place to visit. If you have never been inside the museum, please contact Jennifer Priest our Interim Executive Director to schedule a tour. You can learn more about us and our upcoming events by visiting our website www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHEVRA T'HELIM, INC.

Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 p.m. a few days after Yom HaShoah, Rabbi Panitz will lead us in the rededication of The Daffodil Project followed by a historical review of the Czechoslovakian Holocaust Torah displayed in the museum. This Torah is one of the 1564 Czech Torahs rescued from Czechoslovakia after WWII and taken to Westminster Synagogue in 1964. It was subsequently purchased by The Brewer and Glassman families and

The Daffodil Project, headquartered in Atlanta, GA is striving to plant over a million daffodil bulbs worldwide to

be placed in our memorial garden alongside the thousands of daffodils which bloom each March. This area will be

President: Vice President: Patty Shelanski Treasurer: David Goodman Ira Steingold Secretary: Herbert Brewer B. Minette Cooper Greg Eatroff Helen B. Glassman Howard Horwitz

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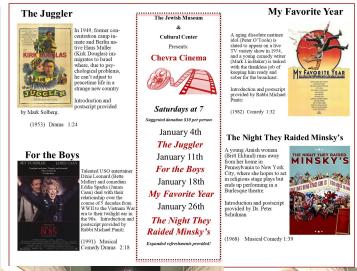
Respectfully,

Karen M. Plotnick

President, Friends of Chevra T'helim, Inc

DBA The Jewish Museum and Cultural Center

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Thank you to the Cinema Committee: Dr. Peter Schulman; Rabbi Michael Panitz; Mary Barnes; Mark Solberg and Brendan Wagner who made our January 2025 Cinema Series a grand success. Despite cold and one snowy evening, we had a total of 104 patrons during the run of the series. We collected a total of \$790.55. We believe this is a record. Our enhanced reception was due to the support provided by

Wegmans

There are five Saturdays in January 2026 so mark your calendars now!





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.

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

2025 Arthur Z. Steinberg Lecture Series Jewish Topics for Contemporary Times

Sundays at 2:00 pm

Judaism and the Ethics of War

FEBRUARY 9 Dr. Craig Schranz



Navy veteran, emergency room physician, Jewish Scholar and local leader, Schranz will discuss Jewish morals and how they relate to modern wartime ethics.

Flags Do Not Wave in a Vacuum: National Victories and Individual Dilemmas -

An Exploration of Modern Jewish Identities

MARCH 16 Dr. Vered Sakal



Through the art work of Israeli photographer Adi Nes, Sakal will address contemporary questions about unity, diversity, and identity.

*NEW DA Contemporary Israel: A Guide for the Perplexed

Renowned professor in the School of Public Affairs at American University, specializing in politics of the Middle East, Daves will discuss the political landscape in modern day Israel.



MARCH 23 Dr. Bryan Daves

*N^{EW Dr.} Jews from the Arab Lands: The Forgotten Refugees

Jewish historian, revered local Rabbi, and professor of History and Religious Studies, Panitz will discuss the timely topic of Israel's resettlement of Jewish refugees from Arab lands.



APRIL 6 Dr. Michael Panitz

\$20 PER LECTURE \$60 FOR THE SERIES OF 4 STUDENTS \$10 WITH ID

Jewish Museum & Cultural Center 607 Effingham Street, Portsmouth

For more information and to purchase tickets go to <u>www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org/upcoming-events</u> OR call 757-391-9266



Contributions December 16, 2024 – March 25, 2025

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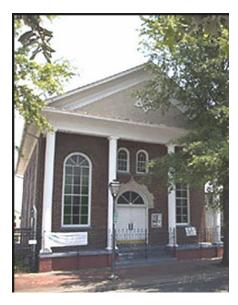
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The Jewish Museum and Cultural Center is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization and contributions are tax-exempt.

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 24!

Details can be located at this website:

Donate to Friends of Chevra Thelim d/b/a Jewish Museum



Brick Fundraising Campaign



Chevra Thelim Genealogy

We have received requests to include the history of founding Chevra Thelim families in each newsletter. Listed below is information on the Reshefsky Family. If you have information on a founding family and would like to have it included in a future newsletter, please email us at jmccportsmouth@gmail.com.

We request a \$300 donation for a 1/2 page of genealogical information and a \$500 donation for a full page.

This issue is provided by the descendants of **Max and Mary Reshefsky**. Max was a signatory on the original purchase/ loan documents and first President of Chevra Thelim.

We are profoundly grateful that they found their way to Portsmouth, VA and provided their large family the privilege of American citizenship. They were fortunate to escape the Russian Tsar's pogroms as well as avoid service in the Russian army. As of this date we can confirm that they had

- 9 Children
- 31+ Grandchildren
- 70+ Great Grandchildren
- 120+ Additional Generations

Max Reshefsky b. Poland 1848 d. Portsmouth, VA 1929 Miriam Weiss b. Poland 1854 d. Portsmouth, VA 1905

Hyman Resh b. Poland 1871 d. Portsmouth 1950 Annie Senator

Nathan Reshefsky b. Poland 1872 d. Chicago 1950Annieb. Poland 1872 d. Chicago

Sarah Reshefsky b. Poland 1875 d. Portsmouth 1942 Joseph Berman d. Portsmouth 1907

Annie Reshefsky b. Poland 1877 d. Portsmouth 1912 Herman Heimanson

Charles (Reshefsky) Miller b. Poland 1880 Fannie Miller

Rebecca Reshefskyb. 1882 New Yorkd. Portsmouth 1950Peyser Abrahamb. 1877 New Yorkd. Portsmouth 1950

Sam (Reshefsky) Miller b. 1883 New York d. Portsmouth 1934 Ida

Bonnie Louis Reshefsky b. 1889 New York d. Portsmouth 1939Rebecca Merkelb. 1887 Baltimore d. Portsmouth 1939

Lillian Reshefsky b.1891 New York d.Portsmouth 1978Joseph Davisb.1890d.Portsmouth 1943

2025 Arthur Z. Steinberg Lecture Series

We appreciate the sponsorship provided by TowneBank. This gift provided the reception that followed each lecture. Support from our community partners enables us to offer a diverse offering of program.



Building & Grounds Updates

Spring has been busy for the Museum. In December we discovered that there was rodent damage to some of the wiring in the attic. We had this repaired and consulted the pest control company. The unexpected electrical repair was \$867. It turns out that squirrels penetrated the Museum through an opening under the roof line. The City of Portsmouth was behind in their tree trimming,

Using the City's new See-Click-Fix app, we had this addressed in a few weeks. Accel Pest and Termite Control began remediation work on March 25. Work will conclude on April 2. This is an unbudgeted expense of \$5,225. We thank the following Board members who made gifts to help underwrite this repair: Minette Cooper; Ed Kramer; Rick Rivin.



A long awaited addition to our Daffodil Project, we will have a border installed around our beds and they will receive fresh mulch. While the expense to maintain the beds are in the budget, the one time expense of the border is not. This is a \$1,700 project. If you wish to make a gift to help underwrite these expenses, you are welcome to mail a check payable to JMCC, P. O. Box 7962, Portsmouth, VA 23707, or you can give online using this link: Donate | Jewish Museum and Cultural Center | Portsmouth

Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

2025 Arthur Z. Steinberg Lecture Series Jewish Topics for Contemporary Times

> *Jews from the Arab Lands: The Forgotten Refugees* Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 pm



Dr. Michael Panitz

Jewish historian, revered local Rabbi, and professor of History and Religious Studies, Dr. Panitz will discuss the timely topic of Israel's resettlement of Jewish refugees from Arab lands.

Tickets: \$20, Students \$10

This program is sponsored by:



Jewish Museum & Cultural Center 607 Effingham Street, Portsmouth



Jewish Museum & Cultural Center Chevra. Thelim Synagogue



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

Upcoming Events—SAVE THE DATE!



April 27, 2025 2:00 pm—4:00 pm Spring Daffodil Project Rededication and Holocaust Scroll #62 May 10, 2025 9:00 am—3:00 pm Steeple—Steeple

May 12-24, 2025 — Annual Online Auction

May 29, 2025 5:00 pm—7:00 pm, Auction pick up and Wine & Cheese

In the News:

March 14, 2025 WHRO Public Media <u>Portsmouth synagogue turned museum</u> <u>keeps local Jewish culture alive</u>







Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

Zelma G. Rivin Wonderful Wednesdays 2025 Summer Music Series



July 30

Francesca Hurst Solo Pianist

Opening Night Reception - 6:30 pm

Francesca Hurst presents "Reflections" a program which features a variety of composers from traditional classical, Japanese haiku, nocturnes and jazz.



August 6

"Trio Niche" Violin, Cello & Fortepiano

The Music of Jefferson's White House This fortepiano trio was formed by seasoned



August 13

Jae Sinnett Trio Jazz, Swing, Blues

August 20

Bagels & Fraylox Klezmer

ALL CONCERTS BEGIN AT 7:30 PM \$30 PER CONCERT \$75 FOR THE SERIES OF 4

Purchase your tickets HERE or visit www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ARTISTS CLICK ON THEIR PHOTO

baroque musicians to bring a historical sensibility to repertoire from the turn of the nineteenth century.

Local Jazz Artist and Composer Renowned jazz drummer Jae Sinnett will bring the house down along with Allen Farnham on piano and Terry Burrell on bass as they perform original compositions.

Back by Popular Demand!

Hampton Roads very own Klezmer Band returns for the third year in a row. Clap your hands and stomp your feet to the high energy sound of Bagels and Fraylox!

Jewish Museum & Cultural Center 607 Effingham Street, Portsmouth

