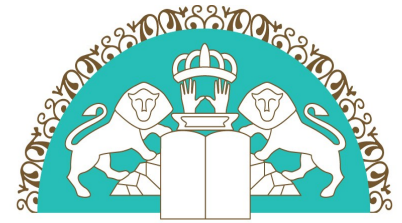


Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

Summer / 2026



Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

Chevra T'Helim Synagogue
1918-1986



Greetings to friends and patrons of the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center.

I am Norman David Soroko, and I am the President of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center. It is my honor to include details about our 2026 Zelma G. Rivin Wonderful Wednesdays Summer Music Series in this newsletter. Zelma Rivin, of blessed memory, was our founder and first Board President. A summer music series to provide live performances during quiet months of the cultural arts calendar was very important to Zelma. This is how the series was named in her honor.

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This is one of the museum's biggest fund-raising events and we use that money to help provide for other events for the community, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

I would like to express many thanks to Rick Rivin, our Music Series Chair and committee members Faye Bailey, Jennifer Priest and Patty Shelanski. This event would not be possible without you, the community, for your financial support. I want to acknowledge the support provided by the Helen G. Gifford Foundation and the City of Portsmouth Museums and Fine Arts Commission.

In May, we had the honor of partnering with the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater for American African Culture week. On Thursday, May 28, 2026, we hosted the Annual Educator's program and concert with Cantor Jason Schatner-McKinney. Cantor Schatner-McKinney is the cantor at Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The concert was fabulous and a beautiful reception was sponsored by the Tidewater Jewish Foundation. Special thanks to Sierra Lautman, Hunter Thomas, Blake Sisler and Andrew Willenbrink of the TJF for their assistance and to our Executive Director, Jennifer Priest for her help in coordinating that evening's event.

Thank you to all our patrons who continue to support the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center in so many ways.

Warmly,
Norman David Soroko
President of the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center Board

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.

President:	Norman Soroko	Sara Kruger
Vice President:	Ira Steingold	Ronald Reshefsky
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	Greg Eatroff	Advisory Board
	Helen B. Glassman	Max Greenhood
	Barbara Johnson	Anne Lyons
	Edward Kramer	Marilyn S. Siegel
		Kathryn J. Wolf

We had the pleasure of serving as the venue for a celebration of Life Long Learning presented by



on May 28. Over forty guests attended. Many were first time visitors to the Museum. The program showcased the talents of Cantor Jason Schachter McKinney, Temple Emanuel, Winston Salem, NC and his accompanist Dr. Eric Schwartz. We thank the UJFT for extending this opportunity.



A Reminder about the “*Rivin Circle*”

How to include JMCC in your Will or Living Trust

Add as little as **one sentence*** to your will or living trust saying that you wish to support us. You may use your estate planning attorney, or a will planning software or app. Your options include leaving a specific amount; selected securities; a piece of property; or a percentage of your estate.

*Typical bequest language:

“I (We) leave _____ to the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center of Portsmouth, VA (dba Friends of Chevra T’helim, EIN Tax ID number 54-2043763).”

It’s as simple as that. In addition, we would also like you to let us know that you have made this bequest, so that we may add your name to our other past and future supporters who have already become designated members of The Rivin Circle.

Preserving the past for
our future.

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

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.

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 Chuck Woodward will be joined by Virginia Chorale members Elise Ramos Krepcho, Kathryn Kelly, Brian Blair and Brent Hartigan as they present A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters - American Songs.

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



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



Contributions April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

GENERAL

Dr. Herbert Brewer David Goodman Hampton Road Jazz
Stanley Levine Mark Munson David Sacks
Richard Yanku

IN HONORARIUM

JENNIFER PRIEST
Marian Ahearn

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN & ALICE CRENSHAW
Robin Watkis

LESLIE FRIEDMAN
Rick Rivin

LEA GILCHRIST
Becky Barclay
Rick Rivin

EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE MATCH

Erik Cooper
Susan Hudson
Julia Doresy Loomis
Mona Smith
Supporter
Southeast Virginia Community Foundation

APPRENTICE PAINTERS

Vicki Caminer
Ingrid Chucker
Lea Gilchrist
Helen Brewer Glassman
Joan Laderberg
Jay Legum
Hollie Minnick
Jessica Rosenberg
Jeanne Williams
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 Chevro](#)



[Thelima 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.





On May 23 the Museum hosted a location shoot for CBN Films. Our interior will be featured (briefly) in a film being produced to highlight Jewish contributions to our nation's fight for independence.

The production crew of 30 began arriving at 8:00 am and they departed at 6:30 pm. It was a long and interesting day. Below are some images to provide a sense of what it was like. The attention we received from passers by was one of interest. The project certainly made folks take notice of our building.



Building & Grounds Updates



We extend a heartfelt thanks to the Tidewater Jewish Foundation for an unexpected \$5,000 grant restricted to security purposes. As part of a Portsmouth Partnership initiative, we researched security camera options, but placed this project behind our established mini campaign for exterior building maintenance. This unexpected grant meant that we could contract with South Bay Communications & Security to order the camera and schedule installation, which completed on June 17. Portsmouth Partnership will help us connect with the Portsmouth Police Department so our camera can feed into their system. With the completion of this project, we will receive a \$1,000 grant from the Partnership which will be used to complete our exterior maintenance campaign.



Work on our exterior maintenance project begins on July 6, 2026!



The Daffodil Project

Jewish Museum and Cultural Center

**BE A PART OF THE WORLDWIDE
DAFFODIL PROJECT BY PLANTING DAFFODILS IN YOUR
GARDEN OR DONATING BULBS TO THE JMCC OR A
COMMUNITY GARDEN! NOW IS THE TIME TO PURCHASE
AND PLANT YOUR DAFFODILS - \$1 FOR 1 BULB**



The Daffodil Project is a worldwide effort to memorialize the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust

and

in support of children everywhere suffering humanitarian crises today.



To order bulbs, make a donation, or purchase a paver for the JMCC community garden, please visit www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org or fill out and mail the order form below to JMCC, 607 Effingham Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. Make checks payable to JMCC.

NAME

BULBS X \$1.00 TOTAL

Please accept my donation in the amount of \$_____.

**BULB PICK-UP DAY
SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER
9 AM - 2 PM**

For more information and to RSVP
email jmccportsmouth@gmail.com OR
call 757-391-9266

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

This event is **FREE** and open to everyone.
Donations are always welcome and appreciated.



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Chevra Thelim Synagogue
1918-1986

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&
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.jewishmuseumpportsmouth.org



Upcoming Events—SAVE THE DATE!



July 6, 2026 - Our Exterior Maintenance Work Begins!

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

October 19, 9:00 am—2:00 pm Rummage Sale and Bulb Pick Up—Dutch Maid Donuts will be on site!

Thank you

To the business and individuals who supported our online auction that was held in June!