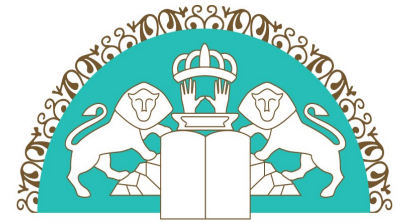


Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

Winter / 2025



Jewish Museum & Cultural Center

Chevra T'helim Synagogue
1918-1986



The Museum is proud of the December 6, 2025, event entitled *LEGACY 2025 Exhibition: Hampton Roads Jewish Artists from the Past* spearheaded by Board Member Myrna Teck who worked very closely with Board Member Richard Rivin. The event was well attended, enjoyable, and educational. It was eye opening to learn who our local Jewish Hampton Roads artists of the past were, and to view their art work. Some of us are familiar with their names since they were contemporaries of our parents and grandparents. Others were exposed to these artists, whose art and sculpture were displayed within our local synagogues or the grounds of the JCC and Temple Israel. All became better informed about Jewish artists from our Hampton Roads community.

On Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chrysler Museum, Samantha Baskind author of *Sir Moses Ezekiel, a 19th century Jewish Sculptor* spoke about this renowned artist and former Virginia Military Institute cadet.

Our annual cinema series will run every Saturday evening in January with doors opening at 6:30 pm for refreshments and a prescreening talk and the film beginning at 7:30 p.m. The concluding film on January 31st entitled *8 1/2* will be presented as a tribute to Tim Cooper of blessed memory. Please go to our website www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org for details.

My tenure as President of the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center ends on December 31st 2025. Since becoming president in January 2024, the JMCC hired a new Executive Director, Jennifer Priest. The museum has instituted numerous governance policies. We have a balanced budget and we are solvent. Due to concentrated efforts in growing our donor database and partnering with WHRO Public Media to promote our programs, our attendance at JMCC events has increased. We thank the UJFT for taking items and records of B'nai Brith and Jewish War Veterans. This allowed us to vacate storage space in the downtown branch of Portsmouth Public Library. After nearly twenty years, we emptied a storage unit providing an annual savings of \$3,084.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our Donors, Volunteers, Board Members, and Executive Director for their dedication to preserving Chevra T'helim and look forward to the future growth and development of this very special entity. Happy Holidays to everyone, and my very best wishes to everyone in 2026.

Karen M. Plotnick

President, Friends of Chevra T'helim, Inc
DBA The Jewish Museum and Cultural Center

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Mission Statement:

“To present an environment where visitors and the community can celebrate and learn about Jewish history,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHEVRA T'HELM, INC.

President:	Karen Plotnick	Edward Kramer	Norman Soroko
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	Helen B. Glassman		
	Barbara Johnson		



From October 31—November 8, The Jewish Museum and Cultural Center hosted its first Congressional Office for International Leadership delegation. We had a five member delegation and a facilitator spend a week learning best practices on drug enforcement, border security and community policing from a US, Virginia and City of Portsmouth perspective.

Our community partners for this program included Mayor Shannon Glover; City Manager Steven Jenkins; Rotary Club of Norfolk; Dr. David Spiegel, EVMS Behavioral Health Science; Old Dominion University; Portsmouth Public Schools; Portsmouth Police Captain Scott Blystone; Portsmouth Behavioral Healthcare Services; Captain Peggy Britton, United States Coast Guard and Sean Neely, US Customs and Border Protection.

Thank you to this year's host families and volunteers who made this program possible!

We sent a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Mia Laufer, Irene Leache Curator of European Art at the Chrysler Museum. Dr. Laufer presented a talk at the Jewish Museum on November 16, providing an overview of the Legacy 2025 artists. We have over 40 guests attend!



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:

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

Preserving the past for
our future.

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

JEWISH MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

2026 CINEMA SERIES

SATURDAY EVENINGS IN JANUARY
With commentary following each movie



FREE and open to the public

SHOWING AT

The Jewish Museum & Cultural Center
607 Effingham St. Portsmouth
To Register
www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org



2026 CINEMA SERIES

SHOW TIME: 7:30PM - DOORS OPEN AT 7:00PM
SUPPORT PROVIDED BY PORTSMOUTH MUSEUMS AND FINE ARTS COMMISSION

JANUARY 3



Woman in Gold (2015) An octogenarian Jewish refugee, takes on the Austrian government to recover a world famous painting of her aunt plundered by the Nazis during World War II, she believes rightfully belongs to her family. Starring Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds; 1 Hr 49 Min; RATED PG-13

JANUARY 10

Defiance (2008) In this action-packed drama based on an extraordinary true story, four brothers fight back against Nazi soldiers and create a hidden community in the woods of Belarus to protect more than 1,000 Jewish refugees during World War II. Starring Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell, Alexa Davalos; 2h 17m; RATED R



JANUARY 17



The Band's Visit (Original title: Bikur Ha-Tizmoret; 2007) A band comprised of members of the Egyptian police force head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center, only to find themselves lost in the wrong town. Starring Sasson Gabay, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri; 1h 27m; RATED PG-13)

JANUARY 24 – Show time 7:00 PM!! Doors open at 6:30 PM

Cast a Giant Shadow (1966) Following the U.N. decision to split British Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, a former U.S. Army officer is recruited by the Jews to reorganize the Haganah (the precursor to the modern day IDF). Based on the real-life experiences of a Jewish American military officer, Colonel David "Mickey" Marcus. Starring Kirk Douglas, Senta Berger, Yul Brynner, Frank Sinatra, Angie Dickinson; 2h 26m; NOT RATED



JANUARY 31 – This film is presented as a tribute to Tim Cooper of blessed memory



8 ½ (Italian: Otto e mezzo) is a 1963 avant-grade film co-written and directed by Federico Fellini. The metafictional narrative centers on famous Italian film director Guido Anselmi who suffers from writer's block as he attempts to direct an epic science fiction film. 8 ½ won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Costume Design. Starring Marcello Mastroianni, Anouk Aimee, Claudia Cardinale; 2h 18m; NOT RATED)

**Thank you to the City of Portsmouth and Sheriff Michael Moore
for assisting us with event security.**



Contributions October 1, 2025 – December 30, 2025

GENERAL

Dr. Leigh Baltuch
Margaret Gupta
Howard Horowitz
JCC Seniors Group
Bill & Sharon Nusbaum
Ron Reshefsky

Ruben Rohm
Ira Steingold
Joe Steingold
Lawrence Steingold
Ed & Janis Weisberg
Hannah Wright

IN HONORARIUM

SARA KRUGER

Wendy Brodsky

IN MEMORIAM

SALLY ADLER

Rick Rivin

SOL & ELLA BREWER

David & Ellen Brewer
Herbert Brewer

SUSAN BREWER

David & Ellen Brewer
Herbert Brewer
Rick Rivin

MINETTE COOPER

Mary Barnes
Herbert Brewer
Helen & David Glassman
Barbara Johnson
Linda Laibstain
Jay Legum
Karen Plotnick
Rick Rivin
Norman Soroko

JERRY HALLER

Rick Rivin

ARI LAZIER

Rick Rivin

JAY LAZIER

Rick Rivin

TOM MOONEY

Rick Rivin

MAX & MARY RESHFESKY

Marshall Bonnie & Sonia Stein

NANCY WREN

Ken Wren

LEGACY 2025

Candace Altschul
David & Joan Balaban
Kathy Eckert
Kim Fink
Janet Glasofer
Dvora Gordon
Harry Gruber
Dee Hawley
Jewish Art Education
Adam Litchman
Susan Margolius
Gay Merrill
Blanche Nusbaum
Miriam Palmer
Dale Parks
Shelly Parks
Stuart Parks
Pincus-Friedman Families
Joan Rose
Meredith Rose
Marilyn Siegel
Tidewater Jewish Foundation
Rabbi Israel & Jennifer Zoberman

The Daffodil Project

Joan Rose
David Sacks

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 41!

Details can be located at this website:

[Donate to Friends of Chevra Thelim 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.





Team Jewish Museum and Cultural Center distinguished itself for the first half of WorldQuest at Norfolk Yacht on November 13. This is a world current events trivia competition for teams of eight. Our team was comprised of Ken and Marilyn Siegel; Rick Rivin; Jennifer Priest, Steve Plotnick, Catherine Chappell and Ghislaine Somnolet.



Halftime Scores: General Category

	Round 1	Round 2	Halftime Scores	Round 3	Round 4	Final Scores
Jewish Museum and Cultural Center	25	19	44			
Mariner's Mark	25	18	43			
NATO ACT	25	19	44			
Naval Academy Alumni	25	19	44			
Norfolk Sister Cities	18	15	33			
Towne Bank	18	5	23			
Wealth Avenue	25	21	46			

Hampton Roads

Saturday evening on December 6 at the Simon JCC we celebrated the opening of our Legacy 2025 art exhibition. The art work is on view in the upstairs gallery at the JCC until January 12, 2026. We thank our corporate and foundation supporters!



December 14, 2025 Lecture at the Chrysler Museum

Samantha Baskind, Ph.D., author of *Sir Moses Ezekiel, a 19th century Jewish Sculptor* spoke about this renowned artist and former Virginia Military Institute cadet. Over sixty guests attended.



Prior to the lecture, Dr. Baskind visited the Jewish Museum to examine a Moses Ezekiel relief gifted to us by Meyer and Dee Dee Chovitz.



2nd Annual Hanukkah Happening a Success!

Families enjoyed Hanukkah themed movies, museum tours, crafts and of course traditional food. Thank you Kathy Spangler and Expo Kitchen for help with the latkes.

Thank you Sheriff Moore for providing event security!



Volunteers needed!

We will receive our second COIL (Congressional Office for International Leadership) delegation March 26—April 2, 2026. We will need host families, drivers and general volunteers. This delegation comes from Lithuania. The participants will either be sitting members of Parliament or senior professional staff. Please reach out to the Museum office if you are interested in helping. 757-391-9266 or staff@jmccportsmouth@gmail.com

**Jewish Museum
&
Cultural Center**

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

Visit our website:

www.jewishmuseumportsmouth.org



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

Congratulations to our new leadership team—effective January 1, 2026

President—Norman Soroko

Vice President—Ira Steingold

Secretary—Karen Plotnick

Treasurer—David Goodman

Welcome new Board members Paula Russel and Richard Yanku!

Upcoming Events—SAVE THE DATE!



Every Saturday in January 6:30 pm—2026 Cinema Series

Sundays -February- March —Look out for Lecture Series Details

