

JEWTiCA

A JEWISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

A production of the
Jewish Community Federation
of the Mohawk Valley



- Welcome
- History
- Hall Of Fame
- Festival Schedule
- Area Congregations &
Jewish Organizations
- Our Sponsors

Welcome to JEWERICA 2022!

We are so glad you are here.

The Jewish Community Center of Utica (JCC) is pleased and proud to bring this event to the Mohawk Valley to celebrate the 175 years that Jews have been an integral part of the history of our region.

We are delighted to share our cultural heritage, our religious practices, and our traditional Jewish foods with this very special community in which we live.

Festival Committee:

Joe Silberlicht, Co-Chair
Marsha Silverman, Co-Chair
Katrena Berkovich, Food Chair
Keri Campbell
Andi Dinerstein
Rabbi Gustavo Geier
Barbara Goodman
Victor Pearlman
Rabbi Peter Schaktman
Sara Tisch
Pam Vescera
Anne Yoss

JCC Board of Directors:

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Rabbi Peter Schaktman
Joe Silberlicht
Marsha Silverman
Anne Yoss
Victor Pearlman, Executive Director

A Brief History of Jews In the Mohawk Valley

In 1778, the Village of Utica was incorporated. The first Jew to call Utica home was Abraham Cohen, who came from Poland in 1847. By 1848, there were enough Jews to form a minyan, holding services at the home of Max Levy. Congregation Beth Israel was founded on October 1, 1848 with 20 families.

Jews continued to come from Eastern Europe (mostly Poland) between the 1870s and 1920s as the Erie Canal and the railroads made Utica a transportation hub and manufacturing center. In the early years, Jews were peddlers who sold their wares to isolated farmers, miners, and loggers without access to essential goods. The peddlers later branched out into wholesale, manufacturing and, in 1900's, retail establishments that lined Whitesboro Street. In the 20th and 21st centuries, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals joined those who already called Utica home.

In the early 20th century, the Jewish community continued to thrive, establishing fraternal lodges, a YMHA and YWHA, a Workmen's Circle (1892), Hadassah (1917) and the Zionist Organization of America (1938). The Jewish Community News covered their activities.

Although Temple Beth Israel did not survive, it was succeeded by Zvi Jacob (Orthodox) in 1870; Temple Beth Joseph in Herkimer which grew from the Hebrew Aid Society (1915); Temple Beth El (Conservative) in 1919; and Temple Emanu-El (Reform) in 1950. The Jewish Community Center opened in 1955. The most recent additions are Chabad of Clinton and Chabad of the Mohawk Valley.

Although the population of Jews has declined, as has the overall population of the Mohawk Valley, the Jewish community here remains vibrant.

Photo: Members of Utica's Jewish Hertzal Cultural Club, organized July 2, 1924



Mohawk Valley Jewish Hall of Fame

In addition to the inaugural celebration of JEW TICA, the JCC is proud to announce the establishment of The Mohawk Valley Jewish Hall of Fame. This Hall of Fame will recognize those Jews with a connection to our region whose contributions to the Jewish people of the Mohawk Valley, the United States, or the world are notable, significant, or otherwise deserving of such recognition. Today we are honored to enshrine the very first member of this body, **Deborah Lynn “Debbie” Friedman**.

Debbie was a self-taught singer-songwriter, born in Utica, whose music in words and melody spread throughout Jewish worship. Thousands of youngsters at Jewish summer camps across the country learned her songs and integrated them into their religious observations. Congregations of all stripes added her works into their liturgy. *The Forward*, a Jewish newspaper, called Debbie “the Joan Baez of Jewish song.” According to her obituary in *The New York Times*, she was known “for her clear, strong voice and for the intense spiritual conviction with which she sang as she accompanied herself on the guitar.” Debbie passed away in 2011 at the age of 59 in California.

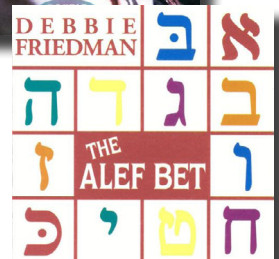
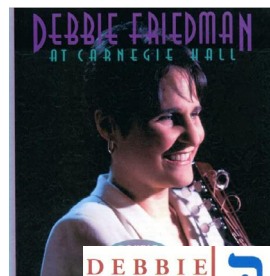


Photo: Debbie Friedman (middle) with her aunt Irene Waldman (left), former Temple Emanu-El rebbetzin, and her mother Freda (right)

Festival Schedule

On the Main Stage:

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|-------|--|
| 12:00 | Welcome to Jewtica! |
| 12:00 | Jewish Music: Sara Tisch, Linda Slavin |
| 12:30 | Cantor Kal Socolof |
| 1:00 | Mohawk Valley Jewish Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Music by The Temptations |
| 1:45 | Jewish Jeopardy |
| 2:00 | The Broadway Babes |
| 2:45 | Interview with Josh Rawitch, President
of the National Baseball Hall of Fame |
| 3:00 | The Broadway Babes |
| 4:00 | Isle of Klezbos |
| 4:45 | Jewish Jeopardy |
| 5:00 | Isle of Klezbos |
| 6:00 | Rabbi Geier, LiveNoah |
| 7:00 | Chap-O's: Mark Kall, Al Sherline, Chuck Mishalanie |



In Bubbe's Kitchen:

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 1:30 | Pickles with Jeffrey Yoskowitz |
| 2:30 | Challah with Devorah Waks |
| 3:00 | Blintzes with Jeffrey Yoskowitz |
| 4:30 | Baba Ghanoush with Jake Silberlicht |



Area Synagogues

Temple Emanu-El (Reform)

2710 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13502
Phone (315) 724-4177
Rabbi Peter Schaktman



Temple Emanu-El is a reform congregation of 155 families, welcoming traditional and non-traditional Jewish families and singles. We hope you will join us for Friday night services, social events, educational opportunities, religious school, and holiday celebrations, monthly tot Shabbat services, and community service work.

Temple Beth El (Conservative)

1607 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13502
Phone (315) 724-4751
Rabbi Gustavo Geier

A Conservative Congregation with a commitment to Tikun Olam, for the improvement of the world. Established for the Study of Torah, the performance of its precepts, the practice of righteous deeds and an unconditional support for the State of Israel. A member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Congregation Zvi Jacob (Orthodox)

110 Memorial Parkway
Utica, NY 13501
Phone (315) 724-8357
Rabbi Howard Matasar

Congregation Zvi Jacob is open every Saturday morning at 9:30am and Jewish holidays. We welcome everyone to come to our synagogue and participate in our services.

Temple Beth Joseph (Conservative)

327 North Prospect St.
Herkimer, NY 13350
(315) 866-4270

Temple Beth Joseph is a small egalitarian Conservative Jewish Synagogue located in Herkimer. We are affiliated with The United Synagogue and Women's League of Conservative Judaism. We welcome all people of the Jewish faith.

Area Jewish Organizations

Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley

Mailman Memorial Center Building

2310 Oneida Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 733-2343

Executive Director: Victor Pearlman

The JCC provides educational, athletic, artistic, and cultural programs and services to Mohawk Valley residents of all races, religions, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. We offer a vast variety of programming and services distributed over virtually every age group. Youth programs start for children as young as two year old. This includes Utica's finest preschool, pee-wee sports, as well as beginning level music lessons and tutoring. Music, sports and tutoring programs continue for children throughout their teenage years. Young adults and parents can enjoy fitness programs such as aerobic classes, Yoga classes, basketball and personal training. They can also come see current movies, noted speakers, and participate in adult education classes. Seniors can take exercise classes or join us for an afternoon of Mah Jongg or Bridge.

Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center

2050 Tilden Avenue

New Hartford, NY 13413

(315) 797-3114

Executive Director: Christina L. Serafin



Sitrin is dedicated to providing compassionate, professional care, and continues to seek innovative solutions to meet the medical, social, behavioral, recreational, and support needs of those it serves with respect, dignity, and fiscal responsibility. Sitrin services include comprehensive medical rehabilitation, skilled nursing and respite care, a military rehabilitation program, residential care for individuals with developmental disabilities, dental services, child care, medically-affiliated adult day health care, assisted living, and affordable housing.

Chabad of Clinton

108 College Street

Clinton, NY 13323

(315) 925-7613

Directors: Rabbi Didy Waks and Mrs. Devorah Waks



Chabad Lubavitch of the Mohawk Valley West

PO Box 494, New Hartford, NY 13413

Directors: Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Charitonow and Mrs. Frumit Michal Charitonow

We appreciate our sponsors!



Special thanks to:

PJ Green

Smith Packing

The Stanley Theater

Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center

The City of Utica, NY; Robert Palmieri, Mayor

Sponsor us next year! Email UticaJewtica@gmail.com