

# The Jewish Community News



July/August 2022

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## Upcoming Events

### SPAC Bus Trip

Thursday  
July 14  
10:30 a.m.  
Depart J.C.C.

### Book Rap

Monday  
July 18  
1:30 p.m.  
ZOOM

### Annual Board Meeting

Thursday  
July 21  
7:15 p.m.  
J.C.C. library

### Board Meeting

Thursday  
Aug. 15  
7:15 p.m.  
J.C.C. library

**UJA:  
MAKING  
JEWISH COMMUNITY  
HAPPEN**

## Our First Jewtica on June 12 Was a Rousing Success

Incredible! Unbelievable!  
Astounding! Great!

These are just some of the adjectives we heard in reaction to the presentation of JEWtICA, a Jewish cultural festival on the grounds of the J.C.C. in Utica on June 12. Granted, the food, demonstrations, music and programming of the festival were indeed worthy of these reactions. What was really impressive is what we, all of us together, were able to accomplish as a community. Attendance was estimated at over 2,000 people!

What began as an idea presented at a J.C.C. board meeting over a year and a half ago became reality due to the efforts of many people throughout our community working hard to make it happen.

Congratulations to the festival committee (listed below), as well as to many others from within our Mohawk Valley community. Our financial sponsors

enabled us to provide exceptional entertainment with broad appeal. Please thank and patronize them!

The hard work of our on-

site volunteers (over 100 of them) made sure the festival ran smoothly. Jews and gentiles alike contributed to our overwhelming success. They included volunteers from the Notre Dame ROTC contingent, congregants from all our local synagogues, and friends and neighbors of all backgrounds. The City of Utica embraced JEWtICA also. Mayor Palmieri recognized the positive impact on the growth and prosperity of Utica the Jewish community has had and proclaimed June 12, 2022 to be "Jewish Culture and Heritage Day" in the city. We thank the DPW crew who wrangled the mobile stage into position, and the Utica Police and Fire Departments. Thanks also to the New York State Police for assuring our safety and security.

We must also recognize and thank our service providers, such as Fanelli Sound and Morris Tents, whose talents and expertise made us confident that we could present an event of this magnitude; other non-profit agencies like the Utica Public Library and the Utica Zoo, that added fun and educational opportunities to our event; Sitrin; the staff of the JCC; and the vendors like Berger's Tavern, Willie's Bagels, SuperOfficial and Chabad of Clinton whose presence

added immeasurably to the festive atmosphere. Special thanks also to our cooking demonstrators, Jeffrey Yoskowitz of The Gefilteria for his pickling and blintzes demo and Jake Silberlicht for sharing his Israeli style baba ganoush. Each one showed just how much fun cooking can be!

Thank you to all who attended, supported, participated, volunteered, or contributed in any way to the success of this event! We'd like to do this again. Circle June 11, 2023 on your calendar!

### JEWtICA Planning Committee:

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

### JEWtICA Sponsors:

Bank of Utica  
Nelson & Strife Financial Group  
Strategic Financial Services  
Cohen & Cohen  
Empire Group of Companies  
Rockford Auto Glass



Photo By Tom Loughlin Jr