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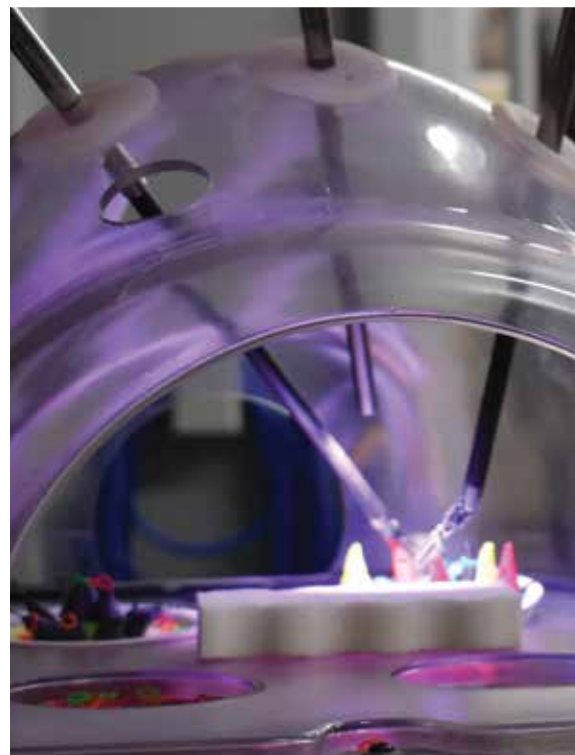


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St. Charles Jewish Festival - Aug. 14

A Celebration Of Culture And Diversity

The second annual St. Charles Jewish Festival will take place on Sunday, August 14th from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. outside the Foundry Art Centre and will showcase and celebrate the local Jewish community, as well as bring the sights and sounds of Jewish life from around the world to St. Charles.

The festival, organized by the Chabad Jewish Center of St. Charles County and the St. Charles Jewish Family Network, will once again be hosted by the City of Saint Charles and will enjoy community-wide support and representation from cities and leadership from throughout St. Charles County.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy live Jewish music and kosher food, and learn about Jewish culture and traditions in a fun and meaningful way. Admission, music, and family activities are free. Food will be for sale.

“We’re gearing up for an extra fun and joyful experience for all, with a special track for young families,” said Bassy Landa, who, together with her husband Rabbi Chaim Landa, directs the Chabad Jewish Center of St. Charles County. “After all, that’s our motto — Jewish. Done Joyfully! — and we’re preparing to double, and possibly triple, last year’s 1,200 person attendance.”

Since its founding in 2019, the Chabad Jewish Center of St. Charles County has established strong roots in St. Charles,

servicing the estimated 6,000 Jews who live in the County.

“The Jewish community is a shining facet in the kaleidoscope of diversity that we are so proud to have here in St. Charles,” said Mayor Dan Borgmeyer. “We’re excited to once again be hosting and supporting this event, which will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Jewish community and its culture and traditions.”

A Tour of the Jewish World

While organizers say this year’s festival will be full of surprises, it’s the “Jews From Around the World” that is already generating extra excitement and anticipation.

Upon arriving at the festival, attendees will receive a “passport,” which will enable them to take a trip around the Jewish world without ever leaving St. Charles County. Characters dressed in costume representing Jewish communities from across the globe — including Europe, North and East Africa, Asia and more — will share the history of Jewish life and culture, and stamp visitors’ passports.

You may be greeted by a Moroccan Jewish man with the words of “shalom aleykhem” (peace be upon you) or from a European Jew with the yiddish phrase of “vas makhstu?” (how are you?). Each character will offer opportunities for participants to learn and experience Jewish culture in a fun, relevant and personable way.

Families with Young Children

A highlight for families with young children will be an appearance by renowned children’s entertainer Bobby Doowah, whose performance will begin at 11 a.m. — with plenty of time for the kiddos to enjoy music and fun before naptime.

Children will also have the opportunity to enjoy the Bubble Bus — a festival favorite that will bring the joys of bubble-making to the day’s festivities. A multitude of crafts and other child-friendly activities will round out the offerings for St. Charles County’s growing young family demographic.



Revamped Kosher Food Selection

Talk show host, acclaimed foodie, and self-proclaimed “lover of the matzo ball soup” John Carney will lead a team of local volunteers who will be grilling up a massive St. Charles kosher cookout that will be available for purchase.

Driving in from the northwest, Holy Smokes — a kosher Nashville BBQ food truck — will bring its unique fusion of Tennessee BBQ, Middle eastern favorites, and Jewish deli classics. There will also be a ‘tasting kit’ featuring Jewish cuisine from around the world.

Shipping Container Turned “Unity Art Sukkah”

Attendees will be invited to make their imprint on Jewish life in St. Charles County, as a repurposed shipping container will be converted into a sukkah — the greenery-topped hut used in the celebration of the Jewish autumn holiday of Sukkot.

Led by local, and nationally recognized, artist Zach Smithey, the sukkah will be decorated inside and out by festival attendees, and after the festival it will be transported to the property of the future home of Chabad’s Jewish Community Center in O’Fallon, where it will headline the holiday’s observance this fall.

Live Jewish Music

Drawing on the teachings and inspiration of the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the most influential rabbi in modern history, the festival will focus on the themes of joy, gratitude and positivity.

Attendees will enjoy world-class live Jewish music, with the festival’s lineup anchored by the “8th Day” band. The West-Coast-based pop rock Jewish band is acclaimed for bringing a genuinely Jewish twist to the genre, and has been entertaining sellout crowds across the U.S. since 2004.

“Shakshuka” — the area’s newest Jewish music group — will bring its eclectic mix of musical favorites to the festival.

Shakshuka, the food, is a classic Middle Eastern dish and one that’s eaten for breakfast or any meal of the day, and Shakshuka, the band, is a group of old and new friends who play a mix of Jewish and Israeli music, “adding new spice, fragrance, and taste to familiar tunes.”

For more information and to secure your FREE ticket, visit: www.JewishStCharles.org/Festival.

