

## **Sing-Along Supports Local Synagogue and Its Services Winchester Star, June 2, 2016**

KERNSTOWN — Guests at the Alamo Drafthouse Theater will sing along to "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset" and other classic tunes during a showing of the 1971 musical "Fiddler on the Roof."

Presented by Beth El Congregation at 520 Fairmont Ave., the sing-along show will begin at 10 a.m. Sunday, with doors opening at 9:15 a.m. The theater is at 181 Kernstown Commons Blvd. Tickets are \$8 each. Guests will have access to the song lyrics so they can join in with the actors on screen.

Michelle Kotkin, Beth El Congregation membership chairwoman, said the movie serves as a fundraising opportunity for the synagogue and "fun raising" event for the community.

"It will bring in people who love timeless movies and want to support Beth El," she said. "It's a joyous film, it's historic and people can get into the music."

The classic G-rated film follows the story of Tevye, his wife, Golde, and their five daughters who live in a small Jewish town in Russia in 1905. The family faces the hardships of having little money and threats of an anti-semitic tsar. Tevye looks to marry off his five daughters through the local matchmaker, but he finds that tradition is fading as the younger generation speaks up for itself and its desires.

Beth El Congregation's Rabbi Scott Sperling said it is remarkable and heartening to see universal Jewish themes throughout the movie.

"The movie represents a significant cultural link to people in our congregation who come from Eastern European backgrounds," he said.

Prior to the film, guests will be able to get a photo taken under a chuppah, a canopy under which a Jewish bride and groom stand during their wedding ceremony. Guests are encouraged to dress up in "Fiddler on the Roof" inspired clothing, or they can borrow available clothing and hats for their photo under the chuppah.

Interactive props will also heighten the film experience. Guests will hold glowsticks during the movie's Shabbat service. During the movie's wedding scene, viewers will hold the ends of white napkins in a collective chain that will join everyone in the theater together.

Along with the Alamo's standard menu, special food items like egg-cheese-and-veggie wraps, pancakes, crème brulee French toast and blueberry sour cream coffee cake will be available for purchase.

Kotkin said guests are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance in case the Alamo needs to move the film to a larger theater.

"It is the only film showing on Sunday morning," she said.

After paying for the cost of showing the film, Beth El Congregation will receive 80 percent of the proceeds from ticket sales, which will go toward its educational and children's programming.

Some of the synagogue's yearly activities include participating in the WATTS program, which offers shelter to homeless during the winter months, and holding special events during holidays like Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover.

This year, the congregation celebrated Purim by teaching young members how to make hamantaschen — triangular pastries with a variety of sweet fillings.

To purchase tickets for the show, visit [www.drafthouse.com/winchester/show/fiddler-on-the-roof](http://www.drafthouse.com/winchester/show/fiddler-on-the-roof) or stop by the box office.

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