



Mike Capozzola,
Christopher Noxon
and Jen Kober



Laughing Matters

Twin Cities Jewish Humor Festival lifts winter blues.

THE TWIN CITIES JEWISH HUMOR FESTIVAL returns for another year of celebrating the Jewish contribution to comedy.

Claire Avitabile, director of performing arts at Sabes JCC, came up with the idea for the festival back in 2009 when she was planning for the upcoming season and wondered what to schedule in the dead of winter. Avitabile wondered what would get people out of the house in negative twenty degrees. Her conclusion? "I thought the promise of a laugh would do it."

Over the years, the festival's format has evolved based on audience feedback. This year, the comic lineup will feature both local and national talents during its January 16-20 run.

Washington, D.C. comic Mark Matsuof headlines for Minneapolis-based comedian Greg Berman on opening night, followed the next day by Jen Kober, who presents her blend of

stand-up and storytelling with special guest Heather Gold—the self-proclaimed "geek comedian." Additional acts include local talent Dan Mogol, who was a semifinalist in the 2010 Acme Comedy Club's "Twin Cities Funniest Person" contest; the improv group The Chosen Few; and San Francisco-based comic and cartoonist Mike Capazzola with special guest David Harris, a Minneapolis-based comedian and magician.

Festivities conclude with Rabbi Sim Glaser—known as the "inappropriate Rabbi"—headlining for special guest and international comedy veteran David Goldman.

The festival also includes an art exhibit, literary event, live podcast, improv workshop and yoga laughter class. — Kelsey Kuno

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