

# Fifth annual Jewish Humor Festival to kick off Jan. 18

The Sabes JCC will host the fifth annual Twin Cities Jewish Humor Festival Jan. 18–Feb. 1. This two-week Fringe-like festival of one-person shows, stand-up comedy, workshops, film and special events will celebrate the Jewish contribution to the world of humor, and feature both local and national talent.

All but one of the events will take place at the Sabes JCC, 4330 Cedar Lake Rd. S., St. Louis Park.

The Humor Festival will kick off with comedian Wendy Hammers, with special guest Laura Thorne, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. Hammers is an actress, writer and stand-up comic, among other things, and is the recipient of two Drama-Logue Acting Awards. Her latest solo show, RIPE, played to standing room-only audiences in Hollywood in 2012 and is ramping up for a 2014-2015 tour. Local favorite Thorne began working as a comic in



**Ventriloquist Jonathan Geffner and his “madcap meshugeneh puppet partners” will perform Jan. 26.**

2007 at the suggestion of her former boss who, upon firing her, recommended she pursue stand-up comedy.

Tickets are \$18 for the general public, and \$15 for JCC members, students and seniors, which includes

an opening night party in the JCC lobby.

The remainder of the festival schedule is as follows:

- An Improv Comedy Workshop for kids in grades three to five, 12 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 (a presentation for family and friends will take place at 2:30 p.m.).
- Comedian Jessica Kirson, with special guest Plucky Rosenthal, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.
- Hassidic comedian Mendy Pellin, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23.
- Comedian Cathy Ladman, with special guest Raleigh Weld, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. Ladman received the American Comedy Award for Best Female Stand Up Comic and was also



**Cathy Ladman**

the only female comic to appear on the last two Johnny Carson *Tonight Show* anniversary shows.

- Laughter Yoga Workshop with Mary Margaret Anderson 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26
- *Mish Mash!* with ventriloquist Jonathan Geffner, with special guest Huge Theater, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.
- Film: *When Jews Were Funny*, directed by Alan Zweig, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29.
- Mark Cohen presents his book, *Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman*, the first published

biography of the groundbreaking Jewish song parodist and humorist, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 at the St. Paul JCC, 1375 St. Paul Ave.

• “The Observant Rabbi: An Evening of Observations\* from the Twin Cities’ Inappropriate Rabbi Sim Glaser” (\*guaranteed 68 percent kosher), with special guest the Chosen Few, a Jew-ish improv-comedy troupe, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, or \$12 for JCC members, students and seniors, which includes a reception.

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Ticket prices vary for each event; visit: [www.sabesjcc.org](http://www.sabesjcc.org) or call 952-381-3499.



**Mendy Pellin**

## Group receives grant to support dementia-friendly work

The Twin Cities Jewish Community Alzheimer’s Task Force has received a grant through ACT on Alzheimer’s to support its work in creating a dementia-friendly community.

The Twin Cities Jewish Community Alzheimer’s action team is one of seven community teams in the early stages of becoming dementia-friendly, characterized by being informed, safe and respectful of anyone touched by dementia.

The community work is sponsored by ACT on Alzheimer’s, a volunteer-driven, statewide collaboration

preparing Minnesota for the personal, social and budgetary impacts of Alzheimer’s disease. Working with communities to help them engage key partners and mobilize community sectors to achieve dementia readiness is one of ACT’s key strategies.

This work will help communities build awareness of dementia and a broader understanding of the everyday actions people can take to help those who need assistance. Communities can also develop strategies so that people with dementia can live independently with help from the

community.

The Twin Cities Jewish Community Alzheimer’s action team used the ACT on Alzheimer’s comprehensive Community Toolkit to assess supports already in place and determine additional actions needed to improve the lives of residents with dementia and support their family caregivers (1-3-14 AJW). The action team obtained input from more than 50 members of the community.

The grant awarded to the Twin Cities Jewish Community Alzheimer’s action team will help the group achieve

a critical goal of raising awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer’s disease, and of how to interact with and make referrals for persons with dementia and their family members.

The action team has developed five objectives to meet this goal:

- Educate Twin Cities rabbis on Alzheimer’s disease and its impact on their congregants
- Develop a resource guide tailored for the Jewish community
- Pilot test activities and events to

increase community awareness and decrease stigma

- Campaign to increase community awareness and decrease stigma
- Provide caregiver education and training.

The Twin Cities Jewish Community Alzheimer’s Task Force was part of the first round of grant recipients from ACT on Alzheimer’s. A second round is open for applications until March 4. For information, visit: [www.ACTonALZ.org](http://www.ACTonALZ.org).