Exhibits highlight local businesses, Israeli illustrator

3rd Generation Project: The Art of Business and works by Israeli illustrator Hanoch Piven are on display through Jan. 29 in the Tychman Shapiro Gallery at the Sabes JCC, 4330 Cedar Lake Rd. S., St. Louis Park.

3rd Generation Project features four local Jewish family-owned businesses spanning three or more generations, including American Drapery Systems, Inc., Cedar Box Company, Ernest I. Fink Agency, and Ribnick Fur and Leather. The stories of these businesses are documented through photography by Steven Cohen and written interviews by Josh Awend.

An exhibit reception will take place 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15.

On concurrent display in the Sabes JCC’s Shared Walls Exhibition Areas will be works by Piven. The exhibit — planned in conjunction with the 2015 Twin Cities Jewish Humor Festival and the Culture Blvd. series — includes Piven’s colorful mixed media and witty celebrity caricatures assembled from common objects and scraps of materials.

Piven will lead a workshop for all ages and offer a lecture on Sunday, Jan. 18 at the JCC. For information and tickets to the Piven events, call 952-381-3499, e-mail: tickets@sabesjcc.org or visit: www.sabesjcc.org.

Author Thomas Beller to speak Jan. 6

The St. Paul JCC’s Twin Cities Jewish Book Series will continue with an appearance by author Thomas Beller 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at the JCC, 1375 St. Paul Ave.

Beller’s J.D. Salinger: Escape Artist is described as a “spirited, deeply personal inquiry” into the near-mythic life and legendary work of J.D. Salinger. The book follows its subject’s trail from his Park Avenue childhood to his long, final refuge in New Hampshire.

Tickets are $6, which are available at: www.stpauljcc.org, by calling 651-698-0751 or at the door.

For information, visit: www.stpauljcc.org.

Hadassah’s Maj-a-Thon is Jan. 25

Hadassah’s 12th annual Maj-a-Thon will take place 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 Barry St. W., St. Louis Park. This fundraiser is open to all Hadassah members and nonmembers.

In this tournament-style event, each game is timed for 15 minutes with three rounds lasting one hour each. Players will rotate three times during the afternoon.

Mahjong instruction will not be available. Orders will be taken for new 2015 mahjong cards.

The entry fee is $36, or $40 for walk-ins if space permits. This includes participation in the tournament, prizes and refreshments. All proceeds go to the Hadassah Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower in Israel.

For information and to register, contact: sarahesilver@comcast.net or 763-544-4012, or ronnalocketz@gmail.com or 763-544-5439.

ENGAGE learning event is Jan. 10 in St. Paul

ENGAGE, an evening of Jewish learning, will take place 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 Hamline Ave. S.

Among the learning opportunities will be topics such as Orthodox Jewish filmmakers in Israel; Jewish notions of sexuality and gender; an introduction to the religious and ethical movement of Musar; an exploration of how song and poetry brought Sabras and immigrants together in the early years of the state of Israel; a study of the Book of Nehemiah, Chapter 8; the Talmudic tales of the rabbis; Yemenite food; and Jewish genealogy.

Teachers will include Rabbi Eyal Gazit of Hamline University; Rabbi Yosi Gordon of the Talmud Torah of St. Paul; Stacy Beckwith of Carleton College; artist and calligrapher Rani Halpern; chef Zehorit Heilich; and more.

The event is free for those aged 30 and younger; or $18 per person. To register, visit: www.stpauljcc.org.

For information, contact Beth Friend at 651-255-4735 or bfriend@stpauljcc.org or Sara Lynn Newberger at 651-698-8807 or sara.lynn@tsp.org.

Makom Shalom to host Hanuka party

Makom Shalom: A Jewish Women’s Sacred Circle will host a Hanucka party, a celebration of the Festival of Lights, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 at 2175 Pinehurst Ave., St. Paul.

The event will include Havdala, candle lighting, singing, storytelling and a potluck, which includes vegetarian, dairy, vegan and poultry to accommodate a variety of dietary needs.

All are welcome. For information and to make a reservation, e-mail Ruth at: RCSAbundance@aol.com.

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