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# Jewish Federation celebrates 10th annual Day of Learning

By Jean L. Amodea  
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A portion of the History of Sound Tour, part of the 10th annual Day of Learning presentation on Feb. 16 at Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center that will offer a unique perspective on the evolution of sound in Jewish culture. Photos provided by Alethea Perez

Jean L. Amodea

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Where else can you meet a Hollywood actor, view rare Judaica — books and memorabilia — and hear a Klezmer concert at one event? On Feb. 16, you can do all that at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center.

Presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples Jewish Community Relations Council, the 10th annual Day of Learning is entitled “The Joys of Jewish Arts and Entertainment,” and is a gathering and a celebration of the Jewish culture and heritage.

According to JCRC program committee member Ida Margolis, the arts “promote cultural understanding, help to share cultural identity, reflect history and tradition and bring people together.”

To that end, the JCRC has tapped presenters renowned in their respective fields. These include actor and singer Adam Shapiro, who appeared in the Amazon series “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” and “Fiddler on the Roof” in Yiddish; Daniel Scheide, a distinguished cataloger and librarian at Florida Atlantic University; Alethea Perez, manager of Recorded Sound Archives at FAU Special Collections; and Tom Cimarusti, a music professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Perez and Scheide are co-presenters of a program that will highlight the archives’ special collection of Jewish music, song and rare books housed in the FAU library.

“I will be speaking about the Judaica collection and the history of the archive,” Perez said. “A video presentation, ‘History of Sound Tour,’ will cover how we splice and edit recordings, [and] vintage equipment such as Victor Victrolas, an eight-track player and an Edison cylinder player. I will discuss how Edison moved to a 45 RPM changer. I also have a slide of our curated collections.

“Scheide will demonstrate various Jewish book collections and discuss the concept of books as art objects, some of which are artistic in style and represent a certain period and event. Recordings, including a few cantorial pieces, will sample what we have at the archives.”

Perez described her work with the archives as a labor of love. The archives are valuable for new generations because they expose them to recordings that their great-grandfather may have enjoyed. The archives also are important to some 843

researchers worldwide with digital access.

Cimarusti is the founder and director of the Southwest Florida Center for Public Musicology. His program will include a vocal selection by Shapiro, whom Cimarusti will accompany on piano. He and his Klezmer music ensemble, the Klezmaniacs, will perform a selection of traditional Yiddish songs. The folk music genre originated with the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe and was performed during social events and ceremonies. One of the featured instruments besides the clarinet and violin is the accordion, which Cimarusti has played since childhood.

“Klezmer music is a good reminder of Jewish history and what the Jewish people have gone through,” Cimarusti said. “It reflects a positive message of tolerance with its celebratory sound. It’s important to remind ourselves of and maintain our identity and ensure it is celebrated, regardless of culture, ethnicity or religion. I am a proponent of celebrating people and their beliefs through music, and my involvement with world music enforces my commitment to celebrate those around us no matter who they are, what they are or where they came from.”