NEWS RELEASE

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***Rimon Celebrates Three Generations of Twin Cities Jewish Artists***

Minneapolis, MN—Eight accomplished artists will take the stage at the eighth annual P’Chotchka, a fast-paced evening of art, food, and ideas, sponsored by *Rimon*: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council. The event will be held at the Metropolitan Ballroom (5418 Wayzata Blvd., Golden Valley) on June 3, 6 p.m. Admission is $54, which includes food and a beverage. For more information or to order tickets, visit *Rimon*’s website at [www.rimonMN.org](http://www.rimonMN.org) or call 952-381-3449.

The eight artists span several generations and a broad mix of artistic forms. They include a theater director, installation artist, vocalist/composer, photographer, mixed media artist, sculptor, writer, and papercutting artist. Each has been supported by *Rimon* through one of its many programs, such as Project Support grants, Artist Salons, youth artist workshops, and more. The challenge for the artists: they each select 18 images that have inspired them and have 18 seconds per image to get their point across.

Iranian-born artist, sculptor, and architect **Pedram Baldari** produces concept-driven works in the form of installations, video, and performance. He is an artist fellow at the Target Studio of the Weisman Museum at the University of Minnesota, where he is also an assistant professor in the Art Department.

**Hayley Finn** recently directed “West of Central” at Pillsbury House Theater. Other directing credits include *Bad Jews* and *Rose* (an Ivey Award-winning production), both at Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. She has directed and written for theaters regionally and internationally, including the Cherry Lane, Edinburgh Fringe, Guthrie, HERE Arts Center, Flea Theater, The Kitchen, Marin Theater Company, New Dramatists, O’Neill Theater Center, People’s Light, Public Theater, Playwrights’ Horizons, South Coast Repertory Theatre, and the Nine Gates Festival in Prague. Hayley is Associate Artistic Director at the Playwrights’ Center and an Artistic Director at Red Eye. She has received grants from the NEA, Theatre Communications Group, Brin Jewish Arts Endowment, and Minnesota State Arts Board.

Photographer and writer **Debra Fisher Goldstein** believes that the shortest distance between two people is a shared moment. She seeks out ‘life as it happens’ moments in the varied and robust communities we co-create through our shared passions, pursuits, and play. She specializes in photographing non-profit community empowerment programs as well as two annual projects: "Beyond the Stick,” a clever look at the Minnesota State Fair, and the Great Pyrenees National Dog Show, where big dogs and big love intersect. Debra is fueled by the artistic and technical challenge to capture - and share - the sacred little moments at our big communal events, thus making this great big world a little bit smaller.

**Arielle Lekach-Rosenberg** joined Shir Tikvah Congregation in Minneapolis in 2017 as Assistant Rabbi, focusing on music, prayer, and social justice. She is inspired by courageous acts of music-making, prophetic activism, and transformative moments in communal life. Rabbi Lekach-Rosenberg is a classically trained singer who has performed in Italy, Jerusalem, Prague, and across the United States. She composes liturgical settings and was featured on the CD *Galeh*. She performs with the ensemble Sefarad-Yerushalayim-New York, along with Rabbi Roly Matalon, Dan Nadel, and Satoshi Takeishi, celebrating traditional musics from Spain, North Africa, and the Middle East.

**Leslie Morris** is Professor of German at the University of Minnesota and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies. She has published widely on the poetics of memory, the Holocaust, and Jewish life in Germany today, and has co-edited three volumes on German-Jewish culture-- the most recent of which, *Three-Way Street: Jews, Germans, and the Transnational,* was published in 2016 with the University of Michigan Press. Her most recent book, *The Translated Jew: German Jewish Culture Outside the Margins,*came out in 2018 with Northwestern University Press. She is currently writing an experimental, hybrid work of literary non-fiction that grapples with her family’s buried Holocaust history and a mysterious coma she fell into shortly after meeting her relatives in Budapest.

**Sara Shiff** is a junior at Armstrong High School, where she sings in the Chamber Choir, represents Armstrong in the All-State Choir, and performs leads in theater productions. She is a third-year team captain of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life team and is on the High Honor Roll. Sara was chosen to participate in the Rimon Young Artist Mentorship program with Lynda Monick-Isenberg, where she created Art by Sara Shiff, a business to sell her original art. She has sold her work at the Uptown Youth Art Fair. Additionally, Sara is training as a classical singer. She has attended the MN Opera Vocal Artist Program and is a third-year student in MacPhail's Prelude Singer-Actor Performance Lab.

**Aaron Silver** has created art in many media over the course of his artistic life, including watercolor and oil painting, intaglio printing, clay sculpture, welded metal sculpture, charcoal and pencil drawing, and more. Over the past decade he has produced papercut artwork almost exclusively. His papercuts have been exhibited at PSJC in Brooklyn, the St. Paul and Sabes JCCs, and the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. His papercut designs often spring forth from Hebrew texts and include text in them, seeking to question and reinforce meanings, to comfort and challenge the viewer, and to evoke a desire to look, think, and discover. Aaron Silver holds a BA in Environmental Biology and German Studies from New York’s Columbia University.

**Denise S. Tennen** is a visual artist who likes to make things. Trained as an architect, she creates works distinguished by their flowing forms--the spirit of stillness in motion. Whether small enough to fit in your hand or large enough to fill a courtyard, each of her pieces explores that artistic territory between the abstract and the recognizable. Denise delights in placing art in non-traditional spaces, where it can be experienced as part of daily life. Her permanently installed work is located throughout the Twin Cities. In recent decades she has added community-participation work to her repertoire with a focus on education, accessibility and bringing forth the distinct expression of individuals. Her work can be seen at Tres Leches Gallery in Minneapolis.

P’Chotchka has been underwritten by sponsorships from the Oren and Sharron Steinfeldt Foundation; RBC Wealth Management; an anonymous gift in memory of David Tychman; Bruce Goodman; the Horovitz Family; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; Sabes and St. Paul JCCs; Fredrikson & Byron; Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin; Kris and John MacDonald; Barry Wolfish and Randi Winston; Ricka and Josh Kohnstamm; Debra Fisher Goldstein; Joel Carter; Lerner Publishing; and Rockler Woodworking and Hardware.

*Rimon* is an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.

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