

HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



December 15, 2021 - 11 Tevet 5782



THANK YOU FOR HELPING KJFS MEET THIS YEAR'S GOAL!

Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services' (KJFS) 2nd Annual [Joe Bornstein Winter Warmth Drive](#) wrapped up on December 7th, and we are so proud to announce that we have **met our goal** of purchasing **750 pairs of winter boots for Maine kids!**

The boots are being distributed to 14 Portland-area schools and are going directly to students identified as being in need of warm winter boots. The recent snow and dropping temperatures have only helped to underscore what a big difference donations like these mean to students and their families.

We are so thankful for the response from our community, and especially for the donations from [100+ Women Who Care](#), the [Goldman Family Preschool](#), [Levey Day School](#), [Temple Beth El](#), [Congregation Bet Ha'am](#), and all the individuals who participated in this year's drive.

JCA PROGRAMS

*Local programs highlighted in light blue

UNDER JERUSALEM: The Buried History of the World's Most Contested City - A virtual book talk with author Andrew Lawler

Presented by the JCA and Longfellow Books
Thursday, Dec. 16th | 7:00 PM ET



Advanced registration required by Thursday 12/16 at 12 pm to receive the Zoom link.

In this sweeping account, journalist Andrew Lawler explores the complicated history of archaeological digs in Jerusalem. Ranging from imperialistic expeditions in the 19th century, when explorers competed in a "race to stake a claim to Jerusalem's past" to the present day, Lawler's colorful narrative includes aristocrats, scientists, charlatans, and clerics who sought to uncover the remnants of the ancient City of David, and tried to find the Ark of the Covenant, among other archaeological treasures.

The book is [available to order from our friends at Longfellow Books](#)

Zoom link will be sent to registered participants on Weds., 12/15 and again on Thursday, 12/16.

Register

OPEN MAH JONGG CLUB

In-person at the JCA – 1342 Congress St., Portland

Weekly, Wednesdays & Fridays

Starting Dec. 15 & Dec. 17 | 9:30 AM – 12 PM



Players of all levels are welcome – participants should have a basic understanding of the principles of the game and be able to play without instruction. See the JCA website and our [calendar](#) for holiday and weather closures. (For beginners who are not familiar with the game, we hope to offer an instructional course this spring.)

Per the JCA's updated COVID policy as of Nov. 2021, **proof of vaccination and masks are required** at our indoor programs. Please review our full policy before you arrive: <https://www.mainejewish.org/jca-covid-policy-update-11-1-21/>

If you are joining our group for the first time, RSVP to our volunteer Judi Slostky.

RVSP

DELICIOUS SHABBAT SUPPERS FROM CHEF REBECCA SCHILLING

With facility support from the JCA

Starting January 7th

Seasonal, organic, vegetarian meals from [Food Love Laughter](#)



Each Friday, Chef Rebecca Schilling will offer a seasonal menu of vegetarian dishes, packaged in biodegradable containers with easy heating and serving instructions. Each portion is \$18 and includes one entree, one side, and one dessert. You may also choose to add a freshly baked challah from Standard Baking Co.

Order pickup will be on Fridays (noted below), between 3:30pm and 4:30pm in the eastern parking lot by the main entrance of the JCA, next to the JCA preschool playground fence.

Upcoming menus:

January 7, 2022

(Orders due by Wednesday, Dec. 29th at 4PM)

- Entree: Stuffed Squash with Wild Rice Pilaf and Mushroom Gravy
- Side: Maple Roasted Brussels Sprouts
- Dessert: Baked Apples with Candied Ginger and Almond-Oat Crumb

January 14, 2022

(Orders due by Wednesday, January 5th at 4PM)

- Entree: Lentil-Stuffed Cabbage Rolls
- Side: Tzimmes
- Dessert: Chocolate-Raspberry Rugelach

To place your order, get on the mailing list, purchase a gift card, learn more about the meals, and to read about Chef Rebecca visit: <https://www.foodlovelaughter.com/shabbat>

Place your order at Food Love Laughter

PARTNERING WITH THE ETHIOPIAN ISRAELI COMMUNITY
An exclusive Small Jewish Federation 3-part virtual journey
With JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America
Mondays, January 10, 17 and 24, 2022 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET



For decades, Small Federations have partnered with the Ethiopian Israeli community to address barriers to their full and successful integration into Israeli society. As Israeli society evolves, and as the Aliyah from Ethiopia continues, what will the future of our partnership look like?

Join JFNA for an exclusive virtual journey to Ethiopia and Israel. Hear personal stories and achievements of members of the Ethiopian Jewish community and learn about our Federations' longstanding involvement and support.

[Register](#)

Tracy Walder discusses *The Unexpected Spy: From the CIA to the FBI, My Secret Life Taking Down Some of the World's Most Notorious Terrorists*

A virtual author talk presented by the JCA
Thursday, Jan. 13th | 7:00 PM ET



The Unexpected Spy is the riveting story of Walder's tenure in the CIA and, later, the FBI. In high-security, steel-walled rooms in Virginia, Walder watched al-Qaeda members with drones as President Bush looked over her shoulder and CIA Director George Tenet brought her donuts. She tracked chemical terrorists and searched the world for Weapons of Mass Destruction. She created a chemical terror chart that someone in the White House altered to convey information she did not have or believe, leading to the Iraq invasion. Driven to stop terrorism, Walder debriefed terrorists—men who swore they'd never speak to a woman—until they gave her leads. She followed trails through North Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, shutting down multiple chemical attacks.

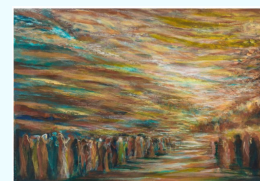
Then Walder moved to the FBI, where she worked in counterintelligence. In a single year, she helped take down one of the most notorious foreign spies ever caught on American soil. Catching the bad guys wasn't a problem in the FBI, but rampant sexism was. Walder left the FBI to teach young women, encouraging them to find a place in the FBI, CIA, State Department or the Senate—and thus change the world.

The book is available to [order from our friends at Longfellow Books](#).

Advanced registration required by Jan. 13th at 12 pm to receive the Zoom link.

[Register](#)

TORAH CONVERSATIONS: A weekly online study group
facilitated by Ellie Miller
Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM



This is a weekly Zoom gathering, informed by various translations of the Hebrew text and a variety of commentaries, ancient and modern. All are welcome to participate on a drop-in basis – no prior experience is necessary. A text of the Hebrew Bible is required - all translations are appropriate. The sessions will last one hour, with an opportunity to continue the discussion for an additional 15 minutes until 11:15 AM.

To join the study group email list and receive the Zoom link, weekly readings and schedule updates, contact our volunteer Diane Newman.

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

*Local programs highlighted in light blue

Beyond the Pew Report: UNDERSTANDING SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA - With Rabbi David Freidenreich

A virtual event presented by Congregation Etz Chaim, Biddeford
Thursday, Dec. 16th | 6:30 PM



Over a million American Jews - one out of every eight - live in counties with fewer than 10,000 Jews. In some respects, Jews who live outside of major metropolitan areas reflect broader trends captured in national studies like the 2020 Pew Report, but these studies fail to capture distinctive aspects of small town Jewish life. We'll explore the current state of American Jewishness, with particular attention to dynamics in places like Biddeford.

David Freidenreich, the Pulver Family Professor of Jewish Studies at Colby College, directs the national impact efforts of the Center for Small Town Jewish Life. The Center cultivates vibrant, socially equitable communities rooted in their own sense of place, nourished by transformational learning, and intertwined with the broader Jewish world.

[RSVP to Cantor Beth Strassler](#)

PRAYING ANEW: Unlocking Meaning in the Words of the Siddur With Rabbi Elie Kaunfer

A online series presented by the Hadar Institute
Thursdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 | 3:30 PM EST



The Jewish prayerbook is a collage of texts that reflect our deepest emotions, longings and experiences. But sometimes it takes some work to unlock this meaning. Together we will interpret the texts of our prayers, uncovering new insights and learning a method of understanding the prayerbook in a new way.

January 6 - New Ways to Understand the Siddur: The Literary Method of Interpretation

January 13 - Resurrection Revisited: A Closer Look at the Blessing of Giving Life to the Dead

January 20 - The Mourners Kaddish: A New Interpretation

January 27 - The Non-Cognitive Aspects of Prayer

[Register](#)

TROPE TRAINING WITH ELIANA WILLIS

A 3-week online community program with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life

Thursdays - January 20 and 27, February 3, 2022

6:30 - 7:30 PM

\$36 suggested donation



Would you like to learn Torah trope? This three-week class with Center rabbinical fellow Eliana Willis will cover the basics of Torah cantillation, focusing on the most common tropes. Eliana will also discuss how to go about learning an *aliyah*, using the Rosh Hodesh Torah reading as a case study, and share online resources to support your Torah reading beyond this class.

Enrollment is limited to 10 students. Registrants are required to commit to attending all three classes. The success of this program depends on class attendance. If you cannot attend all three classes, please do not sign up for the training.

Prerequisites: Participants must be able to read Hebrew text aloud, and should expect to spend time outside of class practicing.

Register

JCA NEWS & UPDATES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE JCA

The JCA is currently hiring for several part time positions, including [PJ Library Coordinator](#) and a [Bookkeeper](#). For more information about these opportunities to join our team and how to apply, [CLICK HERE](#).



CENTER DAY CAMP - SUMMER 2022

We have sold over 85% of our camper weeks in just two weeks and are filling up fast! If you are planning to join us this summer (it's going to be incredible!), sign up as soon as you can at www.centerdaycamp.org!



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