

# HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



December 22, 2021 - 18 Tevet 5782

As we prepare to greet 2022, many of us are feeling exhausted. It has been a long year, a long pandemic. The news seems to get worse every day, and our best laid plans have been changed, and changed again. But last night was the winter solstice, and so for this year, we've faced the darkest time.

It just gets lighter from here, and as Rabbi Sharon Brous reminds us, "the idea that it's possible to move... from darkness to light and from despair to hope – that is the greatest Jewish story ever told."

Over the next two weeks, many will take time away from work, to rest and rejuvenate. We hope that, during this literally dark time, whether you seek comfort, inspiration, distraction, or rest, you will turn to Jewish tradition in whatever ways speak to you - be it prayer, food, literature, song, humor, film, or connection with family and friends. Below you will find some wonderful ways to engage, and we look forward to many more opportunities to come. Thank you for remaining active and committed this year to building a community that helps to heal the world in countless ways!

L'shalom,

Molly Curren Rowles  
Executive Director

## JCA PROGRAMS

\*Local programs highlighted in light blue

### **EXPLORING BROADWAY: FABULOUS "FIDDLER"**

*Presented by the National JCC Adult & Senior Alliance & Hosted on Zoom by the Osher Marin JCC*

**Thursday, December 30th | 4:00 – 6:00 PM ET**

Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock's beloved ***Fiddler on the Roof*** is widely considered the last of Broadway's "Golden Age" musicals. Before its premiere, some producers were concerned that it was "too Jewish" to attract mainstream audiences. However, the touching story and beautiful score proved to capture "the essential human longings for love, community, success, freedom, and family." Join instructor James Sokol for a one-time exploration – filled with interesting facts, delightful tidbits and nostalgic video clips – of this perennial favorite! **Tickets: \$12.50 - \$50**



[Details and Tickets](#)

### **DELICIOUS SHABBAT SUPPERS FROM CHEF REBECCA SCHILLING**

*With facility support from the JCA*

**Starting January 7th**

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

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 3:30 - 4:30 PM in the eastern parking lot by the main entrance of the JCA, next to the JCA preschool playground fence. Orders, pickup, and all proceeds are managed by Rebecca Schilling.

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

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### **SAVING YOUR HISTORY: How to Review and Organize Your Stuff to Meet Legal and Personal Needs**

*A free Zoom workshop with Susie Bock, presented by the JCA and USM's Judaica Collection*

**Wednesday, Jan. 19th | 12:00 PM**

Humans create and collect material culture (documents, objects) in the course of living. Establishing control over your material culture can be daunting, but important so you can put your hands on what you need when you need it. This workshop will:

- Help you sort and evaluate material culture (papers, objects, photographs, audio-visual material) created or collected.
- Provide advice on storing and caring for the materials to ensure their preservation.
- Present suggestions on donating material to a cultural/historical institution.

These principles and procedures can be used by individuals or groups! **Advance registration required by Tuesday, Jan. 18th to receive the Zoom link.**

Register

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### **OPEN MAH JONGG CLUB**

*In-person at the JCA – 1342 Congress St., Portland*  
**Weekly, Wednesdays & Fridays | 9:30 AM – 12 PM**

**NOTE: No Mah Jongg on Dec. 25 or 31**

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:

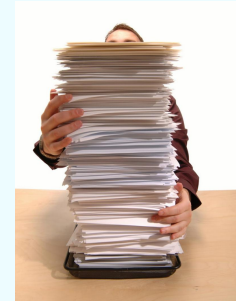
<https://www.mainejewish.org/jca-covid-policy-update-11-1-21/>

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

RVSP

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**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.

[Sign up to join the group](#)

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

\*Local programs highlighted in light blue

### **KOSHER CHINESE FOOD FOR KIDDUSH**

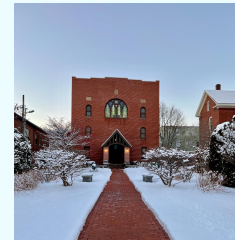
*Congregation Etz Chaim, 267 Congress St., Portland, ME*  
**Saturday, December 25th | 11:30 AM**

Saturday is December 25th. What better way to observe the day than by attending services and eating Chinese food?

We will have Glatt Kosher Chinese food for kiddush after services on Saturday. Come join us! Even if you are a JFK (just for kiddush) kind of member, come join us at 11:30 for kiddush.

Take out is available if you prefer. Please RSVP by Thursday, Dec 23rd.

[RSVP](#)



### **SPIRITS & SPIRITS**

*With Temple Beth El at Maine Craft Distilling, 123 Washington Ave., Portland, ME*

**Thursday, January 6th | 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Join Temple Beth El's Rabbi Carolyn Braun for an evening of spirited and thoughtful discussion over some delicious beverages. L'chaim! For more information contact [office@tbemaine.org](mailto:office@tbemaine.org)

Spirits & Spirits



### **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**

### **JCA DIRECTOR ON MAINE CALLING**

JCA Executive Director Molly Curren Rowles joined [Maine Calling](#) earlier this week to talk about the Afghan refugees arriving in Maine, our organization's new role in welcoming them, and what people can do to help. Listen to the episode online at [www.mainepublic.org](http://www.mainepublic.org)



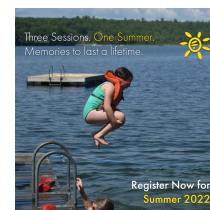
### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE JCA**

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 filled over 90% of our available camper weeks, and spots continue to go fast! We will start moving campers off the waitlist the first week in January, so please visit [centerdaycamp.org](http://centerdaycamp.org) to sign up today!



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