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ARTS & CULTURE

December 6, 2021 - 3 Tevet 5782



*The JCA Arts & Culture Series 2021
and [Longfellow Books](#) are proud to present:*

**UNDER JERUSALEM:
The Buried History of the World's Most Contested City**

**A Virtual Book Talk with Author Andrew Lawler
Thursday, Dec. 16th | 7:00 PM ET**

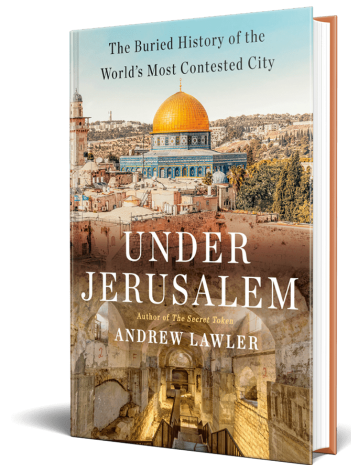
Advanced registration required by Thursday 12/16 at 12 pm to receive the Zoom link*

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.

He vividly describes early explorers navigating mud- and sewage-laden tunnels to “recover the biblical secrets locked beneath the Holy City,” and incisively untangles the contentious geopolitical dimensions of ancient history as modern-day Israelis and Palestinians use archaeological analysis to bolster their political viewpoints and territorial claims.

Richly detailed, sensitively argued, and entertainingly written, this immersive history casts Jerusalem in a new light and reveals the tensions that meet at the intersection of science, politics, religion, and history.

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 Now](#)

“*Under Jerusalem* is a brilliant, highly innovative history of the most contested city on the planet. Andrew Lawler uses these untold stories of archeological digs near and under Jerusalem’s sacred sites to convey all the colorful and violent and contentious history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is an astounding achievement—and a compulsive read.”

—**Kai Bird**, Pulitzer Prize–winning historian and author of *The Outlier* and *The Good Spy*

“What lies beneath? Lawler knows. Evoking the sights, sounds, and smells of ancient and modern Jerusalem, he introduces the reader to a myriad of archaeologists and other colorful characters, all concerned with unearthing the ancient remains of the city, frequently while grappling with thorny modern political, ideological, and theological issues. A must read for anyone interested in either the history or archaeology of Jerusalem.”

—**Eric H. Cline**, bestselling author of *1177 B.C.: The Year Civilization Collapsed*

“Every review of Andrew Lawler’s book about the wild archaeological history of Jerusalem will mention Indiana Jones. This is not because the characters he describes are much like Jones—they’re much more obsessed, more bonkers, or more mendacious—but because the Indiana Jones stories are among the few examples we have of stories about archaeology that are pure fun. Well, now there is another one, just as swashbuckling as the Spielberg movies, but with the added advantage of being all true.”

—**Charles C. Mann**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *1491* and *The Wizard and the Prophet*



**Jewish Community Alliance
of Southern Maine**

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