

# HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



March 3, 2021 - 19 Adar 5781

We hope you had a wonderful Purim; we loved seeing your costumes and hearing about the many virtual celebrations around the state. Now we are all turning the page to Passover, which is coming up fast at the end of the month! This week's author talk focuses on the [history and structure of the Haggadah](#), and staff are working on a Passover Hub full of recipes, resources, and opportunities for connection. We know that some community members who had anticipated participating in virtual seders will now be vaccinated just in time, and plan to get together safely; others will still be on Zoom - if you are looking for tips on running a Zoom Seder, our friends at the Center for Small Town Jewish Life have a [training coming up this weekend](#) that looks wonderful.

Last week, we shared the news of Mary Lilly's retirement at the end of this school year; Mary has been director of our Goldman Family Preschool for over 10 years, and has worked in Early Childhood Education at the JCA for 31 years. Under Mary's leadership, the school has grown and flourished in so many ways, and she has touched thousands of lives as an educator, friend, and colleague. We are already working to plan a fitting tribute for later in the year, and welcome input and suggestions from community members who would like to be a part of the planning process! In addition, we have [posted the Director position](#), and are looking forward to welcoming a new dedicated professional to join our wonderful team and community – please pass on the listing and let us know if you or anyone you know might be interested!

March is packed with great classes, activities, and gatherings – please be sure to visit and bookmark the [community calendar](#) – we hope to 'see' you very soon!

*L'shalom,*

Molly Curren Rowles  
Executive Director

## JCA PROGRAMS

***The Passover Haggadah: A Biography***  
**A Zoom talk with author Rabbi Vanessa Ochs**  
**Thursday, March 4th | 7:00 PM EST**

“And you shall tell your son on that day....” This simple command in Exodus has led to more than five thousand versions of the Passover story. Ochs recounts its life beginning with various mentions in the Bible and ending with the profusion of Haggadot today; these variations reflect the geographical spread of Jewish communities, the diversity of practice, and historic events. For anyone interested in the emergence and complex evolution of the Haggadah, this biography offers a trove of information in engaging and inviting language.



**Advanced registration required by Weds. 3/3 by Thursday 3/4 at 4 PM to receive the Zoom link.**

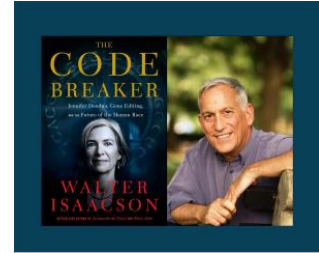
The book is available to order from the publisher at this link:

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691144986/the-passover-haggadah>

Register

---

**WALTER ISAACSON - *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race***  
*Presented in partnership with the JCC Literary Consortium*  
**Thursday, March 4th | 8:00 PM EST**



A gripping account of how Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues launched a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, and have healthier babies. Should we use our new evolution-hacking powers to make us less susceptible to viruses, or prevent depression? Should we allow parents to enhance the height or IQ of their kids?

**Tickets:** \$11 – virtual ticket, or \$38 – one virtual ticket and one copy of the book

Register

---

**Welcoming Elijah & Gittel's Journey: A special family Zoom program with children's author Leslea Newman**  
**Sunday, March 7th | 4:00 PM**



Join celebrated children's author Leslea Newman for a reading and discussion of her two recent books: *Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail* and *Gittel's Journey – An Ellis Island Story*.

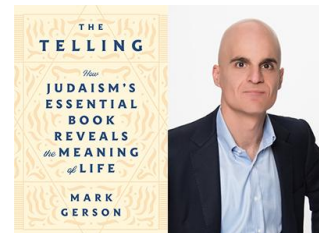
**Advanced registration required by Friday 3/5 at 12 noon.**

The books will be available to [order from our friends at Longfellow Books](#) \*Limited copies will include a signed bookplate.

Register

---

**MARK GERSON - *The Telling: How Judaism's Essential Book Reveals the Meaning of Life***  
*Presented in partnership with the JCC Literary Consortium*  
**Sunday, March 7th | 4:00 PM**



Life changing wisdom from one of Judaism's most powerful texts. The Haggadah, which can be found in Jewish homes around the world, has guided Jewish families and friends through Pesach celebrations for millennia. In *The Telling*, author Mark Gerson shows how even the most familiar passages from the Haggadah are sitting on top of buried treasures ready to help us live more meaningful and fulfilling lives today.

**Free event;** every registered guest will receive a complimentary copy of the book

Register

## **BEGUILING BUENOS AIRES**

*Presented with the National JCC Adult & Senior Alliance*  
**Mondays, March 8, 15, 22**

Join our JCC colleague James Sokol to escape the winter by enjoying summer in “the Paris of South America.” Meet our local guide, Pablo, who will lead four interesting “trips” showing diverse aspects of the capital of Argentina.



- March 8 - Northern Neighborhoods: Recoleta, Palermo, Retiro
- March 15 - Southern Sections: San Telmo, La Boca, Puerto Madero
- March 22 - Cultural Highlights: Food, Dance & Art

[Register](#)

## **SONGS OF WOMEN: A Multi-Genre Musical Celebration of International Women’s Day**

*Presented with the National JCC Adult & Senior Alliance*  
**Monday, March 8th | 4:00 PM EST**

Join in the global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women by joining James Sokol for a journey through several types of music – Broadway, pop, opera, country, classical – composed by, performed by and/or celebrating women! Audio and video clips bring the beauty of music into our discussion!



[Register](#)

## **JKids Radio MUSICAL PASSOVER SEDER EXPERIENCE**

*A FREE online event sponsored by PJ Library in Southern Maine, the JCA, Temple Beth El, and Congregations Bet Ha’am and Shaarey Tphiloh*  
**Sunday, March 21st | 3 PM**

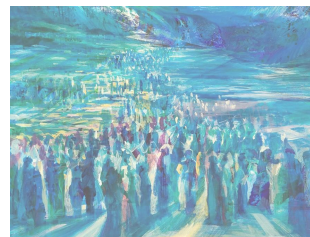


Join us for a musical seder experience with the very top artists in Jewish kids music including Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Eliana Light, Shira Kline, Ellen Allard, Rick Recht, Joanie Leeds, and Elana Jagoda!

[Register](#)

## **RECOVERY-ORIENTED SEDER**

*Presented by the JCA and co-sponsored by the Portland Recovery Community Center- Hosted on Zoom by JCA volunteer Rebecca Bass*  
**Sunday, March 28th | 6 PM**



During this special seder, we will explore how recovery from substance use disorder relates to the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. We will share our own journeys to personal freedom and how those journeys continue today. This intimate event is designed for people in the recovery community, regardless of background or beliefs. Event will be limited to 12 participants.

**Free. Advanced registration required by Thursday 3/25** to receive the Zoom link and a digital PDF of the special Haggadah booklet we will be using.

[Register](#)

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

\*Local programs highlighted in light blue

### **MANIFESTO FOR ENDING WHITE SUPREMACY**

**With *New York Times* columnist Charles M. Blow**

*A virtual event from the Temple Emanuel Streicker Center*  
**Wednesday, March 3rd | 6:30 PM EST**

Charles M. Blow is tired of waiting for violence against Black Americans to cease, for the myths that govern thinking about race to vanish, for the promise of equality to become a reality.

In *The Devil You Know: A Black Power Manifesto*, he issues a call to action for Black Americans to amass the political power needed to topple white supremacy. And he will join us to discuss his disillusionment ... and his hope. Moderated by Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson.



[Register](#)

### **FORWARD FOCUS | Exploring Religious Diversity in Israel**

*Presented by JFNA's Jewish Together initiative*

**A 4-part series | March 4, 11, 18, 25 | 12 PM EST**

Forward Focus is a four-part educational series that explores the importance and development of religious pluralism in Israel. Over the course of four days, experts, religious leaders, and changemakers will discuss the growing prevalence of practicing Judaism within the religious and cultural framework, but outside traditional norms.



[Register](#)

### **SEDER CRAFT – Learn to lead your own seder**

*Presented by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life*  
**Sunday, March 7th | 10 – 11:15 AM**

Join Rabbi Rachel Isaacs and Rabbinical Student Fellow Madeline Cooper to learn tips and tricks for running your own Zoom-based seders this year. You will leave with materials and strategies to lead your own seder with your families, friends, and communities. Geared to those who are newer to leading seders (or newer to leading on Zoom), but all are welcome!

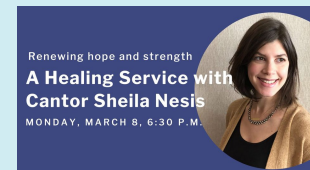


[Register](#)

### **HEALING SERVICE with Cantor Sheila Nesis**

*Presented by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life*  
**Monday, March 8th | 6:30 PM**

Prayers, music, and the warm embrace of friends help us renew our sense of hope, strength, and healing as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. This service is for those of us struggling with our physical or spiritual health, those of us struggling with sadness and grief, and those of us who are caregivers seeking inspiration as we pray for the welfare of loved ones.



[Register](#)

## **CEILING BREAKERS AND HISTORY MAKERS: The Legacy of Jewish Women and Justice**

*Presented by the Baltimore Festival of Jewish Literature*  
**Weds. March 10th | 7 PM EST**



Free on Zoom, with the option to purchase the books.

In celebration and honor of Women's History month and the International Women's Day and inspired by the legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, join authors Elaine Weiss, Marlene Trestman, and Debbie Levy for a virtual conversation about women who made their passion, profession, and purpose to seek justice and repair the world.

[Register](#)

## **From Election to Inauguration and Beyond: JEWISH IDENTITY AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

*Presented by the Shalom Hartman Institute*  
**Thursday, March 11th | 12 Noon EST**



Tal Becker and Erica Brown of George Washington University will explore Jewish peoplehood and how we can move forward and heal, in conversation with Gil Preuss, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

[Register](#)

## **KITCHEN EXPLORATIONS: A Culinary Journey Through Historic Boston - Passover Favorites with Chef Michael Leviton**

*Presented by JArts Boston and the Vilna Shul*  
**Thursday, March 11th | 5:30 PM**



Waves of migration in and out of Boston neighborhoods can be traced through the kitchens, food traditions, and related stories. Chef Michael Leviton cooks and discusses some of his favorite Passover recipes including *krimsel*, a sweet latke-like Ashkenazi dish, from the archives of the Jewish Heritage Center at the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

[Register](#)

## **HAVDALAH TOGETHER** **with Rabbis Lisa Vinikoor and Jared Saks** *Organized by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life* **Saturday, March 13th | 7 PM**



Our March Havdalah comes at the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the pandemic. Grounded in story, reflection, and song, we'll lift our voices to bring comfort, gratitude, and hope.

[Register](#)

## **JCA NEWS & UPDATES**

**[Employment Opportunities at the JCA](#)**

The JCA's mission is to enhance and promote Jewish life and continuity locally, in Israel and throughout the world, and to generate the financial resources to develop, provide and support diverse programs, education and services in order to accomplish these goals.



To view all current employment opportunities [CLICK HERE.](#)

---

### **Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services in the News**

**Sen. Collins pushes for emergency diaper assistance funding**  
*Local diaper banks, including [KJFS], are handing out an average of 50% more diapers per month than usual since the pandemic began...*  
Read the [full article here.](#)



---

### **'Hannaford Helps' Reusable Bag Program benefitting KJFS**

**For the month of March**, every time a reusable \$2.50 *Fight Hunger Bag* is sold at the Hannaford store located at - **415 Philbrook Avenue, Hannaford Plaza, So. Portland** - Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services will receive a \$1 donation. Please join us in helping to reduce waste, while also supporting KJFS this March!



---

1342 Congress St. Portland, ME 04102 | 207-772-1959  
Website: [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org) | email: [jca@mainejewish.org](mailto:jca@mainejewish.org)



Jewish Community Alliance | (207) 772-1959, 1342 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102

[Unsubscribe\\_gleckman@mindspring.com](mailto:Unsubscribe_gleckman@mindspring.com)

[Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [communityupdates@mainejewish.org](mailto:communityupdates@mainejewish.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!