

# HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



November 24, 2021 - 20 Kislev 5782

As we approach Thanksgiving, and just a few nights later, [Hanukkah](#), we give thanks to each of you! In all the ways you have participated or connected with the Jewish community this year, you have helped to make us stronger, bolder, and more vibrant. In Hebrew, the term for gratitude is “*hakarat hatov*,” or “recognizing the good.”

Too often it is easy to focus on what we lack or what we long for. But there is so much good all around us, if we just take the time to notice and appreciate it. We are grateful for each of you, and wish you a restful, delicious Thanksgiving and a sweet, joyful Hanukkah!

Chag Sameach (Happy holiday)!

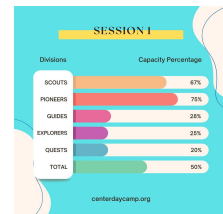
Molly Curren Rowles  
Executive Director

## JCA NEWS & UPDATES



### CENTER DAY CAMP - SUMMER 2022

After only one day of registration, next summer’s program is 65% subscribed already, with some groups already full! 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](http://www.centerdaycamp.org)!



[Register Now for Summer 2022](#)

### 2ND ANNUAL JOE BORNSTEIN WINTER WARMTH DRIVE Running Through December 7th, 2021

Warm winter boots are a perennial need for students in our area, and this year we are working with 14 area schools to provide 750



pairs before the snow flies. Participation is easy! Follow these steps to help us get warm boots on the feet of Maine students:

1. Shop our Amazon Wishlist via [the link below](#) and add as many boots you'd like to your shopping cart.
2. Checkout.
3. Select shipping address: **JCA of Southern Maine, Attn: Adam Seigal** (\*you may have to scroll down your address list to find this option)
4. Boots will be automatically shipped to the JCA and distributed by KJFS volunteers to local schools on a weekly basis.
5. That's it! Your *mitzvah* (good deed) is done.

If you prefer to buy local, please contact Adam at KJFS with the number of boots you'd like to purchase and we will provide you with the needed sizes. Thank you!

[Purchase Boots](#)

### DRIVE THRU DIAPER DRIVE

Thank you again to the United Way for designating our Diaper Bank as the focus of their *Family Day of Action* last weekend! We received over 15,000 diapers, including an incredible donation from a former diaper pantry recipient.



[View the Article on NewsCenter Maine](#)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE JCA

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



[Employment Opportunities](#)

## JCA PROGRAMS

\*Local programs highlighted in light blue

### HANUKKAH FILM FESTIVAL

*Presented by Menemsha Films in partnership with MJFF and the JCA*

**November 28th - December 5th, 2021**



**1 TICKET | 8 NIGHTS | 11 FILMS**

Celebrate the Hanukkah season with eight nights of exclusive, award-winning new films, available to view from the comfort of home via your TV, computer or mobile devices.

Tickets: \$36 with promo code **"MAINE"**

Your ticket purchase provides limited-time access to this series of 11 films, plus exclusive filmmaker discussions and more, with new content added each night of Hanukkah.

Watch the trailer: <https://www.menemshafilms.com/hanukkahff2021>

[Get your film tickets via Menemsha](#)

**JFEST ONLINE: HANUKKAH: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

A JFest event presented by the JCCA on the Virtual J platform  
Presented by the JCC Association and JArts Boston  
Wednesday, December 1st | 6:00 PM ET



Join JCC Association with our partners at JArts and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston as we come together to celebrate Hanukkah. Eight female international Jewish artists, including singer Tair Haim of A-Wa, Italian chef Sylvia Nacamulli, and dancer Rachel Linsky, will share pieces that are inspired by Hanukkiot from the MFA Judaica collection, one of the largest Judaica collections in a major American museum. It will be an unforgettable evening of performance, learning, and artistic engagement for all ages.

Register

### **JFEST ONLINE: HANUKKAH CONCERT WITH MISTER G & FRIENDS**

A JFest event presented by the JCCA on the Virtual J platform  
Monday, December 6th | 5:30 PM ET



Join Latin Grammy Award-winning musician Mister G and his international band of Jewish music-makers from Israel, Mexico, and Argentina for a special family engagement Hanukkah concert, filled with *ruach* (spirit).

Register

### **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**

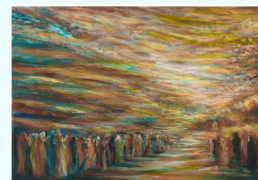
In-person at the JCA – 1342 Congress St., Portland  
Weekly, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Starting Dec. 8 & Dec. 10 | 9:30 AM – 12 PM



Players of all levels are welcome! See the JCA website and our [calendar](#) for holiday and weather closures.

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/>

**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

### **SOUTHERN MAINE HANUKKAH HAPPENINGS 2021**

Happy (almost) Hanukkah everyone! With events happening online, outdoors, and indoors (with some extra precautions), there are so many wonderful ways to celebrate together here in Southern Maine. Here are 14 great Hanukkah Happenings to help keep your annual traditions full of life and full of light.



[View our Southern Maine Hanukkah Happenings Blog](#)

### **LEONARD COHEN: THE MYSTICAL ROOTS OF GENIUS**

*Presented on the Virtual J platform*  
**Thursday, Nov. 25th | 7:30 PM ET**

*Leonard Cohen: The Mystical Roots of Genius* by Harry Freedman is a spellbinding and unorthodox look into the life of Leonard Cohen, and the way his experiences with religion and spirituality produced one of the most creative musicians of all time. Freedman is joined by historian Seth Rogovoy to discuss what went into creating the new book and how it sheds light on the soul and imagination of the legendary Canadian songwriter's life story.



[View the program](#)

### **THE UNTOLD STORY OF SYRIAN JEWS: Commemoration of the Jewish Exodus from Arab Lands**

*A virtual program hosted by the Israeli Consulate to New England and co-sponsored by the JCA*  
**Tuesday, Nov. 30th | 7 PM ET**

The Israel Consulate will be hosting a virtual program commemorating the expulsions of Jews from Arab Lands that occurred in the wake of the establishment of the state of Israel. This date has been officially designated as a day of commemoration by the Knesset. Our program will feature leading expert Dr. Mijal Bitton whose research focuses on the Jews of Syria as well as an interview with Dr. Mayer Ballas, a Syrian Jew himself who played a key role in the rescue of this community.

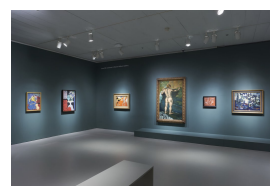


[Register via the Consulate for Zoom Link](#)

**ART IN CONTEXT – CREATING, COLLECTING, LOOTING & RECOVERY**

*From the Jewish Museum, NYC*

**Tuesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14 | 2:00 PM EST**



Explore works by artists including Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse, and others in a 3-session course focused on art produces or looted during WWII.

**November 30: Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art**

**December 7: Chagall: Love, War, and Exile**

**December 14: The Hare with Amber Eyes**

Register

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)



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