

HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



November 25, 2020 - 9 Kislev 5781

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, all of us at the JCA extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you. This community continues to actively respond to the challenges we face with innovation and care. Over the past 8 months, we have experienced an incredible deepening of relationships, connections, and commitment.

People come to the JCA for so many different reasons, and together, we weave the fabric of Jewish life in Southern Maine – a tapestry made more beautiful by every individual and unique strand. We are so grateful for you, and wish you a healthy, delicious and restorative holiday!

L'shalom,

Molly Curren Rowles
Executive Director

PJ LIBRARY

The Ninth Night of Hanukkah – A special family Zoom program with author Erica Perl
Sunday, December 6 | 4:00 PM EST

Join author Erica Perl for a reading and discussion of her heartwarming picture book with a fresh twist on a Hanukkah celebration: celebrating a ninth night with new neighbors and friends!

It's Hanukkah, and Max and Rachel are excited to light the menorah in their family's new apartment. But, unfortunately, their Hanukkah box is missing. So now they have no menorah, candles, dreidels, or, well, anything! Luckily, their neighbors are happy to help, offering thoughtful and often humorous stand-in items each night. And then, just as Hanukkah is about to end, Max and Rachel, inspired by the shamash ("helper") candle, have a brilliant idea: they're going to celebrate the ninth night of Hanukkah as a way to say thanks to everyone who's helped them!



The book will be available to order from our friends at Longfellow Books at this link: <https://www.longfellowbooks.com/event/community-event-ninth-night-hanukkah>
The first 20 copies purchased will include a signed bookplate.

Free. Suggested donations of \$10/household gratefully accepted. Advanced registration required by Friday 12/4 at noon.

Register

Hanukkah Activity Kits from PJ Library
Contactless Curbside Pick Up
Sunday - Tuesday | December 6 - 8
Advanced sign up required by 12/4 at the link below.

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, will soon brighten our dark winter evenings. Celebrate with free Hanukkah Activity Kits from PJ Library in Southern Maine. These kits are geared toward children 3-8 years old.

Whatever your favorite Hanukkah traditions are and however your celebrations may look this year, we wish your family warmth and light this season and hope that this activity kit will enrich your celebrations. Happy Hanukkah from PJ Library in Southern Maine and the JCA!

Free while supplies last, one kit per family – although some extra materials may be available.



[Reserve the Activity Kit](#)

[Click here for more fun Hanukkah programming from PJ Library](#)

BOOK FEST IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

INA GARTEN - *Modern Comfort Food*
In conversation with Michael Ian Black
Zoom author talk and Q & A

Presented in partnership with the JCC Literary Consortium and MJCCA - Atlanta
Weds., December 2 | 7:30 PM EST

Join us for a very special evening with the Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten, as she dishes up some delicious conversation with comedian and author Michael Ian Black. The two will discuss Ina's latest, *Modern Comfort Food: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook*, which features a collection of all-new soul-satisfying dishes from America's favorite home cook!

Tickets: \$45 for one virtual ticket and one copy of the book



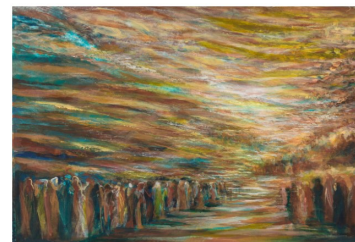
[Register](#)

ADULT EDUCATION

Torah Conversations
An online study group facilitated by Ellie Miller
Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Starting December 3, 2020

Join the group each week by using the Zoom link below.

Last year, we started at the very Beginning (with the Creation story in Genesis) and engaged in a careful reading of every word of the text. We focused on language and structure along with the tales the text imparts. We'll continue our journey beginning with the Torah portion Va-Yetzei, the story of Jacob and his complicated relationships with his wives, his uncle, and, eventually, his brother Esau.



We will not be able to admit late arrivals to the meetings. To join the study group email list and to get schedule updates, [contact Diane Newman](#).

[Zoom Link](#)

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY CLASS Part II
A 4-session online course with Anna Wrobel
Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 | 10 - 11 AM
Suggested tuition: \$50



This course examines American Jewish history in the last hundred years or so. Key themes are historically contextualized including, but not limited to, migration, labor, antisemitism, Israel, the Shoah, and cultural influence.

The class has been adapted to a Zoom format; each session will last one hour, and while Anna will cite primary sources, there will be less focus on in-class analysis of documents. Time is divided between lecture-style presentation and inquiry-based discussion constructed upon the questions and commentaries of the group. Personal and family histories bearing on the discourse are welcome. Past participation in American Jewish History - Part I is not required.

Advanced registration required by Weds. Dec. 30th

Registered students will receive the Zoom class link on Monday, Jan. 4th.

[Register](#)

Why Moses' Experiences in Leadership are Still Relevant
A 6-session online course with Ellie Miller
Tuesday mornings, Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16
10:00-11:15 AM | Suggested tuition: \$72



How did Moses' leadership of the Israelites evolve over 40 years in the Biblical narrative? What were the influences that impacted change in his leadership and style: External politics? Shifting dynamics among the people Israel? Competition for leadership roles from within? Changing demographics? In this class we'll examine a number of incidents from Exodus through Deuteronomy that show how Moses responded to every day demands and to crisis. We'll have the opportunity to analogize between realities of Moses' time and our own through text and commentaries. A text of the Hebrew Bible is required - all translations are appropriate.

Advanced registration required by Tuesday, Jan. 5th. Six student minimum will be needed to run the class.

[Register](#)

YOGA & FITNESS

Online Yoga Classes
With JCA instructor Ashley Flowers

Monday - 5:30 PM Evening Yoga
Tuesday - 11:30 AM Midday Yoga
Wednesday - 9:00 AM Rise & Flow Yoga

Thursday - 10:15 AM Midday Yoga
Friday - 9:00 AM Rise & Flow Yoga

Classes are \$5/session.

Visit Ashley's website for the complete class schedule and to register: <https://www.ashleyflowersyoga.com/schedule/>



Register

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Statewide Community Hanukkah Celebration
Presented by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life and partners around the state
Saturday, December 12 | 5:30 - 6:15 PM



Join the Center for Small Town Jewish Life on the third night of Hanukkah for an all-Maine celebration! Welcome the new week with a spirited Havdalah with Cantor Sheila Nesis. Bring your chanukiah so you can light candles with Rabbi Darah Lerner of Beth El Bangor. Experience a Hanukkah play written by Rabbi Lily Solochek, Rabbi Carolyn Braun, and Rebbitzin Lisa Mayer especially for this celebration—performed by rabbis from across the state! Enjoy music from Rabbi Sruli Dresdner and Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer. Let's celebrate the Festival of Lights together as a statewide community!

Register

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

THANKSGIVING HAGGADAH BOOKLET
From JewBelong
Created especially for Pandemic 2020!

Many of us aren't at our traditional family gatherings and feeling grateful is a bit of a challenge. With that in mind, we designed this guide to help deepen the experience of meaning, connection, and joy at your "table," like the Haggadah at a Passover Seder. The booklet is a collection of readings, blessings, songs and activities (yes, Zoom games are fantastic!) that are mostly focused on the theme of gratitude. Some of the content is Jewish-themed, and all of it is human-themed. Enjoy!

THANKSGIVING



FREE DOWNLOAD

LEAVING, NEVER TO RETURN! - The Journey of Jews from Arab Countries and Iran
Presented by the Consulate General of Israel to New England
Monday, November 30 | 7 PM EST

Join us for an online event, dedicated to the official Israeli commemoration day marking the departure

and expulsion of Jews from the Arab countries and Iran. Keynote speaker, Dana Avrish, will present the special exhibition she curated at the Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv. This exhibition featured selected artifacts from the cultures of 11 Jewish communities in the Muslim sphere.

"Leaving, never to return!"
The journey of Jews
from Arab countries and Iran

Presented by curator and researcher
Dana Avrish
November 30,
7 p.m. EST
Register: <http://bit.ly/arablands>

Register

Virtual Chanukah Cooking Class with Chef Michael Solomonov

Presented by the Lehigh Valley Jewish Federation
Wednesday, Dec. 2 | 8:00 PM EST

Learn to make delicious dishes for Chanukah with Executive Chef and Co-owner of *Zahav*, Michael Solomonov, the 2019 James Beard Foundation award winner for Outstanding Restaurant.

In celebration of the holiday, Chef Solomonov will be making apple shrub, Abe Fisher's potato lakes, Roman artichokes with arugula and olive oil, poached salmon and *sfenj* (Moroccan doughnuts) with cinnamon and sugar.

Pre-registration required. The event will be streamed live over Vimeo. Event password, recipes and ingredient list will be sent before the event.



Register

JCA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The JCA wouldn't exist without the support of our incredible donors. When you donate to the J's **Annual Campaign**, you're ensuring the continuity of all the amazing programs the J offers. From our nationally accredited preschool and summer camp, our food and diaper pantries, to PJ Library and our amazing programs and events; your gift powers it all. Don't forget — one quarter of all Annual Campaign support is also allocated to critical Jewish organizations and initiatives, locally and overseas. There truly is no better way to support the Jewish community, than with a meaningful Annual Campaign gift. [Donate Today!](#)



1342 Congress St. Portland, ME 04102 | 207-772-1959
Website: www.mainejewish.org | email: jca@mainejewish.org



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