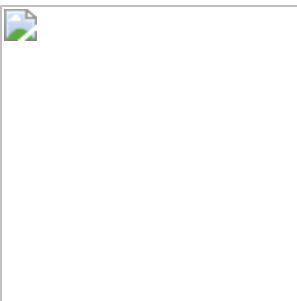


Upcoming Events from the Center for Small Town Jewish Life

We have some remarkable scholars coming to Maine in the next few weeks. Professor Nili Gold will take us on a historical journey through Haifa on Thursday, April 19, at Beth Israel in Waterville; she'll be in Rockland and Portland over the weekend. See below for details and please let us know if you're attending. Lipman Lecturer Anthony Wexler will be at Colby on April 26, exploring *Israel and the new American Jewish Novel*. Finally, there is still time to register for the 2018 Maine Conference for Jewish Life! For more information contact us at jewishlife@colby.edu, or check out our [website](#). Hope to see you soon! Shabbat Shalom.

Haifa: City of Steps, with Nili Gold



Thursday, April 19 / 5:30 p.m. / Waterville: Congregation Beth Israel, 291 Main St.

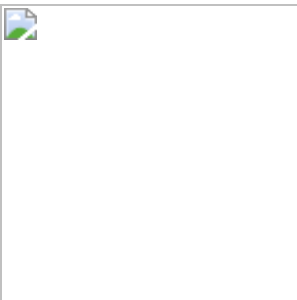
Friday, April 20 / 5 p.m. / Rockland: Adas Yoshuron Synagogue, 50 Willow St.;
info@adasyoshuron.org

Sunday, April 22 / 10:30 a.m. / Portland: Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave.;
office@tbemaine.org

Haifa: City of Steps is an intimate and revelatory journey through the author's native city. With an expert hand, Nili Gold offers a guided tour through Haifa during its heyday in the 1920s and 30s as an international port and cultural center through the 1948 war and the city's subsequent decline. She weaves together urban, architectural landmarks and Haifa's mountainous topography with literary masterpieces to elucidate how a childhood landscape is imprinted in memory. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Caro lauded Gold's book on this subject as beautifully written and impeccably researched—a true contribution to the literature of cities. Nili Gold is Professor of Modern Hebrew Language and Literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Waterville event includes dinner for all participants with conversations facilitated by Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, Arabic instructor Shada Diab, and Hebrew instructor Gahl Rinat. RSVPs appreciated by April 15 to liz.snider@colby.edu. The program is free and open to all.

Israel and the New American Jewish Novel



The Annual Lipman Lecture in Jewish Studies, with Anthony Wexler

Thursday, April 26 / 7 p.m. / Colby: Diamond 122

Sunday, April 29 / 10:30 a.m. / Portland: Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave.

Since its founding in 1948, Israel has played an important role in the Jewish American imagination. But the Jewish state has come to mean very different things to different segments of the American Jewish community. Perhaps not surprisingly, many twentieth-century Jewish American writers steered clear of the topic, focusing instead on the Holocaust or on Jewish life in America. In the last five years, however, a new generation of Jewish American writers, including Nicole Krauss, Nathan Englander, Joshua Cohen, and Jonathan Safran Foer, have turned their attention to the relationships between American Jews and the State of Israel. What do these contemporary writers have to say about this fraught and complex connection? How do they imagine Israel's influence on Jewish American identity today?

Anthony Wexler (PhD, Johns Hopkins University) studies postwar American literature, specializing in Jewish literature and the Holocaust in American life. He has held research and teaching fellowships at Colby College, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Johns Hopkins University, and Northwestern University. He has also studied traditional Jewish texts at yeshivas in Israel and New York. His current book project is titled *At a Distance of Years: The Novel of Aging in the Shadow of Auschwitz*. In it, he examines how a group of late-life novels challenge the ways the Holocaust has been received and represented in American life.



Inspiring programs are scheduled for the Conference, which will take place June 8-10 at Thomas College and in downtown Waterville. Be a part of the largest gathering in the state of Maine devoted exclusively to Jewish learning, music, food, celebration, and community.

Sign up here: <http://www.colby.edu/jewishlife/registration/>

Some of this years highlights:

- Keynote speaker Joy Friedman, Director of Organizing at the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#). Joy has over a dozen years of experience as a community organizer, running grassroots campaigns with interfaith communities for affordable health care, access to capital, criminal justice reform, immigration reform, and environmental policy.
- Special opportunities for Jewish educators, for synagogue board members, and for lay leaders. Contact Melanie Weiss for details. melanieaweiss@gmail.com
- A rare opportunity to observe a kosher *shechitah* (ritual slaughter). *Shochet* Chayim Goldberg will be at a local farm, teaching in a very hands-on way about kashrut, and how to butcher and kasher chickens.
- Kids and Teen Programming for all ages!
- A Jewish music jam session by the firepit after havdalah!


The Conference will have a distinct focus on food and food preparation, including a hands-on pickling workshop, a special teaching about challah, a mouths-on text learning with chef and rabbinical student Jonathan Posner, and more!


For a full schedule of events go to <http://www.colby.edu/jewishlife/conference/>

Register today!

Dont delay count yourself in!

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