

YOU BELONG AT THE



December 19, 2019 - 21 Kislev 5780

Happy Hanukkah from the JCA!

Last night, we [celebrated Tzedakah](#) and the completion of the Hanukkah Lights program, which this year brought winter gear – coats, boots, mittens, and hats - to an incredible 208 children. Thank you to everyone who participated in helping make the program such a success!

If you are staying in Maine over the winter break consider coming by for our [December 25th Family Film](#)! Together with the Maine Jewish Film Festival, Congregation Bet Ha'am and Temple Beth El, we've decided to open the J for a showing of the Hayao Miyazaki movie [Ponyo \(2008\)](#) - please come watch, hang out, and enjoy snacks, movies, dreidel, and board games.

During the darkest season of the year, we celebrate the power of the community and the light that each person brings. We wish you a joyous holiday and look forward to a wonderful 2020, and to continuing to grow, explore, and find meaning together.

L'Shalom,

Molly Curren Rowles
Executive Director

And now from a galaxy far, far away... "A Star Wars Chanukah"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRGlpowJQeM>

UPCOMING EVENTS

[December 25th Family Film](#)

Presented in partnership with the Maine Jewish Film Festival, Temple Beth El, and Congregation Bet Ha'am

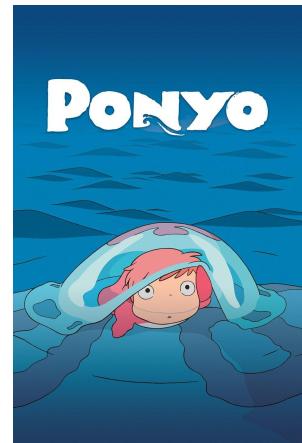
Wednesday, December 25

1:00 – 3:30 PM

JCA - 1342 Congress St., Portland

\$5/family

Join us for a family-friendly film ([Ponyo](#)), board games and card games for all ages, popcorn, and snacks!



[The Lost Family Book Talk with novelist Jenna Blum](#)



Thursday, January 9
6:30 – 8:00 PM
JCA - 1342 Congress St., Portland
Suggested admission: \$10 - JCA members, \$12 - general public

The New York Times bestselling author of *Those Who Save Us* created a vivid portrait of marriage, family and the haunting grief of World War II in this emotionally charged, beautifully rendered story that spans a generation from the 1960s to the 1980s. Register [here!](#)

Sparkle Havdalah: a Drag Queen Story Hour

Co-sponsored by Congregation Bet Ha'am, Temple Beth El and PJ Library

Saturday, January 11

5:30 – 7:00 PM

JCA - 1342 Congress St., Portland

Wear your sparkly best or just come as you are, as we say goodbye to Shabbat and celebrate what makes us each unique and special. We will enjoy a potluck dinner (dairy/vegetarian, no meat please), a story, crafts, music, a costume parade, Havdalah, and fun. This event is FREE, family-friendly and all are welcome.



SHALOM MAINE - A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR ADULT JEWISH LEARNING



Register now - Deadline is Monday, December 23
Subject to change pending minimum enrollment.

Einstein & Oppenheimer With David Hecht

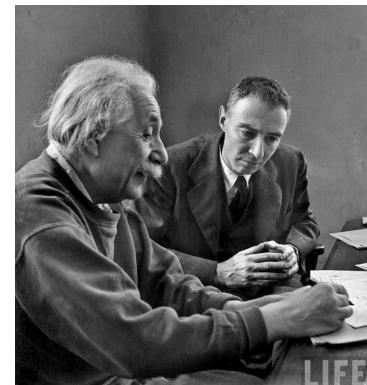
Sunday mornings Jan. 5, 12, 19, and 26

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Temple Beth El – 400 Deering Avenue, Portland

Suggested tuition: \$54

Two sessions devoted to each scientist will explore their scientific achievements, political involvement, and cultural legacies. We will also look at the role that Judaism had in each of their lives, as well as the ways that anti-Semitism affected their careers.



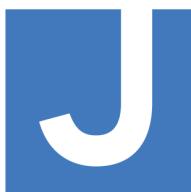
NEW STAFF

Please join us in welcoming **Sara Hallie Richardson** as our new full-time *Welcoming Receptionist*. Sara is a well-known singer-songwriter in Portland who performs regularly at some of Portland's largest and most active



venues. Sara loves to build community and is excited to work on ensuring that everyone who comes through our doors feels welcomed, valued and celebrated. She is also passionate about organization and structure, and is looking forward to helping to improve our internal processes and protocols at the front desk. Sara will be working from 7:30-3:30 weekdays; please introduce yourself to Sara next time you are at the J!

NEWS & UPDATES



Southern Maine Hanukkah Happenings

Happy (almost) Hanukkah everyone! Time to spin the dreidel, eat some sufganiyot, stock up on candles, and get ready to make, and consume, a whole lotta latkes. As we prepare to celebrate Hanukkah, here are [eleven great events happening in Southern Maine](#) communities that we're sure you'll want to attend.



Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program

For the month of December, every time a reusable \$2.50 *Fight Hunger Bag* is sold at the [Hannaford](#) store located at - **787 Riverside Street, Portland, ME** - Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services will receive a \$1 donation. Fight Hunger Bags Sold = Donations Raised! Please join us in helping to reduce waste, while also supporting KJFS this December!

CLUBS, GROUPS & GATHERINGS



Beginner Mah Jongg Classes

Have you always wanted to learn how to play Mah Jongg? Now is your chance! Join instructor Judi Slotsky for this beginner-level course.

**Fridays, January 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28
9:30 - 11:00 AM
JCA - 1342 Congress St.**

Students are also invited to attend our regular open Mah Jongg play sessions free of charge while taking the course.

Tuition: \$40 - JCA members / \$50 - general public.
[PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE](#). Classes will be capped at 8 people.

YOGA & FITNESS

Family Oula with Karli Efron

**Sunday, January 12
10:15 – 11:00 AM
JCA - 1342 Congress St., Portland**

\$10/family - JCA members; \$12/family - general public
[Advance registration required](#) by Thursday, January 9.

Oula is a high-energy, easy to learn, crazy-fun dance workout to top 40 hits! Family Oula provides age appropriate music and moves for you and your child to enjoy together. Classes are 45 minutes of joy, inspiration, and togetherness. Music and moves are geared toward families with children ages five and under. If your child is older than five and you would like to attend, please contact us to determine whether the class is appropriate for your child.



Mindful Flow Yoga With Ashley Flowers

**Tuesdays, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Thursdays, 10:15 – 11:15 AM
JCA - 1342 Congress St.**

Bend, balance, stretch and breathe with a mixture of vinyasa, hatha, and yin yoga styles. Enjoy an hour of mindful movement as we flow through yoga postures and breathing exercises. You should expect to leave this class feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. Beginners welcome!

Pickleball – Open play for players ranked 3.5+

**Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Weekly through March 2020**

JCA – 1342 Congress St., Portland

Free for JCA members, \$5 for the general public, \$40 for a ten-session pass that does not expire. Players should bring indoor sneakers to change into, and their own rackets and balls.



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