

HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



March 24, 2021 - 11 Nisan 5781

Chag Sameach! Happy Passover!

Each year we welcome the coming of Spring in Maine with Passover ('Pesach' in Hebrew). Through the Passover Seder, we retell the story of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, and reflect on the meaning of freedom and liberation historically and in our own time. This year, Passover begins on the evening of Saturday, March 27th and ends on the evening of Sunday, April 4th.

As we prepare for yet another very different Passover, the JCA is proud to share two great resources we've created to help you and your family celebrate safely this year; the [Passover Holiday Hub](#) and our [Passover Programs 2021](#) local events listing.

Whatever this Passover looks like for your family, we hope these resources will enrich your celebrations, and we wish you a meaningful and joyful Pesach!



PASSOVER HOLIDAY HUB

The JCA's special collection of craft ideas, recipes, music and cooking videos, podcasts, and more to help your family celebrate together or apart.



PASSOVER PROGRAMS 2021/5781

10 great local Passover Programs, Virtual Seders, and Pesach Resources to help you celebrate with your community here in Maine!

JCA PROGRAMS

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](#)

THE YELLOW BIRD SINGS – A book talk with novelist

Jennifer Rosner

Thursday, April 1st | 7:00 PM EST

What did Holocaust survivors go through on a daily basis in order to stay alive, and how did these experiences shape their consciousness? Jennifer Rosner's debut novel attempts to answer these questions as it follows Roza and her young daughter, Shira, who flee the Nazis during World War II.



The book will be available to order from our friends at Longfellow Books at this link:
<https://www.longfellowbooks.com/event/community-event-yellow-bird-sings>
Limited copies will include a signed bookplate.

Advanced registration required by Weds. 3/31

[Register](#)

JCA TRIVIA NIGHT!

A virtual trivia night hosted by professional emcees from TriviaHub
Saturday, April 10th | 8 PM – 9:30 PM



The JCA invites all adults to a fun night of virtual trivia and prizes! If you are donor, member, friend of the JCA or someone who is simply looking to make connections within their Jewish community, this event is for you! Gather your household around the computer, or come solo—everyone will be placed on teams. Each member of the winning team will receive a prize! This event will be hosted by a professional emcee, and promises to bring the laughter and smiles we're all craving.

Free! Advanced registration required by Thursday, April 8th at midnight to receive the Zoom link and event instructions.

Once you've registered, you will receive an email with your team number and the link to join the event. You can expect this email on Friday, April 9th.

[Register](#)

ALL STAR MUSICAL YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

An online concert celebrating Israel Independence Day, presented by the JCA's Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt Memorial Fund
Sunday, April 11th | 3 PM



Join Jewish Rock Radio for a celebration of Israel Independence Day featuring Israeli superstar, David Broza, Josh Nelson, Chava Mirel, Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Rick Recht, Shimon Smith, Laurie Akers, Rabbi Lisa Silverstein, teens and college students from Israel and special guest leaders including Dan Shapiro (Former US Ambassador to Israel), Rabbi Eric Fingerhut (President and CEO of JFNA), and more!

Free! Advanced registration required by Sunday April 11th at 12 noon to receive the Zoom link.

[Register](#)

SHLICHEI TZIBUR TRAINING PROGRAM

Empowering Worship Service Leaders With Cantor Sheila Nesis

Made possible by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, the Messerschmidt Memorial Fund at the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, and the Covenant Foundation



**Monthly classes on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 PM
Starting Tuesday, May 25**

This yearlong experience is designed to empower individuals to lead worship services, shiva minyans, singing circles, etc. within their own communities. Through once-monthly online classes and individual coaching sessions with Cantor Sheila Nesis, participants will build the skills they need to succeed as prayer leaders. Enrollment will be limited.

Tuition: \$120 for the yearlong program (\$10/month for class and individual coaching). Cost should not be a barrier to participating in this program.

Application deadline: Friday April 23.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance to the program by Friday, May 7. Questions? Please contact Liz Snider at essnider@colby.edu.

For more information and to apply, visit:

<https://colbycollegejewishlife.regfox.com/shilchei-tzibur-program-application>

LEARN TORAH & HAFTARAH CANTILLATION

The Center for Small Town Jewish Life is pleased to offer training in Torah and Haftarah trope with the Center's Rabbinical Fellow Eliana Willis starting in June 2021. If you are interested, please contact Liz Snider at essnider@colby.edu.

[Register for the Shlichei Tzibur Training Program](#)

YOM HASHOAH FILMS, DISCUSSION & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCE

Presented by the Maine Jewish Film Festival and the JCA

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY FILMS & DISCUSSION

Free Film Streaming

Sunday, April 4th at 9 AM – Weds., April 7th at Midnight

Euphoria of Being

When choreographer Reka Szabo reads a memoir by dancer Eva Fahidi, a 93 year old survivor of Auschwitz, who returned to Hungary alone following the murder of 49 family members, Szabo is compelled to choreograph Fahidi's story. An unforgettable portrait.



You Only Die Twice

When Israeli director Yair Lev's mother inherits a house from a distant relative, she discovers that her father died 'twice' - as Ernst Bechinsky in Palestine and Ernst Bechinsky in Austria. But which was the real one and which the imposter? The director's search for the answers takes you on a thrilling ride from Zagreb to Tel Aviv.

Zoom Discussion with *You Only Die Twice* Filmmaker Yair Lev

Tuesday, April 6th | 2 PM

Both films are available for free streaming on the Eventive platform. You must reserve your ticket via MJFF for access. (Links for the films will not be emailed).

[Register for free tickets](#)

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE – Holocaust Remembrance Day
Weds. April 7th | 6:30 PM



Join us for a brief online commemoration of Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day, through memorial prayers, poems and songs, with poet and historian Anna Wrobel, and Rabbi Carolyn Braun of Temple Beth El.

Advanced registration through the JCA required by 4/7 at 4 PM to receive the Zoom link.

[Register](#)

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

*Local programs highlighted in light blue

JEWISH RESPONSES TO THE RISE OF HITLER
with Michael Brenner
Annual Berger Family Holocaust Lecture
Presented by Colby College and the Center for Small Town Jewish Life
RESCHEDULED: Friday, March 28th | 11 AM



The challenges that Jews faced with the rise of the Nazi party in Germany remain relevant today amidst dramatic political and social changes in Europe and the United States. How did German Jews of different political and religious stripes respond to the rise of the Nazi threat from Hitler's rise in the early 1920s to his final appointment as chancellor in 1933? When do we recognize political danger, and how do we react to it?

[Register](#)

RACISM IS A VIRUS: PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE ASIAN AMERICAN YOUTH EXPERIENCE IN MAINE
Presented by the Holocaust and Human Rights Center (HHRC)
Wednesday, March 31st | 7 PM



The HHRC invites teachers, students, and members of the public to a special panel discussion on Racism Is A Virus: A Conversation with Asian American Youth in Maine. Please join us as we highlight and raise awareness of the Asian American experience in Maine.

We hope to raise awareness of the historical roots of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia and how Asian Americans, specifically youth, are negatively impacted by prejudice and bias fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Register](#)

DAYS OF MEMORY: FROM COMMEMORATION TO CELEBRATION
Special virtual experiences presented by the JCC Association

Join the JCC Association's signature three-night viewing experience on **Virtual J**, featuring exclusive content created by the JCC Movement for Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, and Yom HaAtzmaut. These events will use storytelling, first-person accounts, music, and more, so North America's Jewish community can observe these Israeli holidays by exploring how telling and retelling is shaped by memory; transformed through commemoration; and, over time, shared in celebration.



Day of Memory flagship events will be broadcast at 8 PM EST:

- **Weds., April 7, 2021 - Yom HaShoah: Honoring Jewish Resilience and Storytelling**
- **Tues., April 13, 2021 - Yom HaZikaron: The Power of Jewish Peoplehood Through Personal and Collective Mourning**
- **Weds. April 14, 2021 - Yom HaAtzmaut: Moments of Pride Through Israeli Innovation**

[Register](#)

Shalom Hartman Institute Spring Days of Learning

GATHERING MEANING & MEMORY: New Rituals for Remembrance on Yom Hashoah

April 7 - 8, 2021



We open on April 7th with a global *Hitkansut* (gathering) ceremony and continues throughout the day on Thursday, April 8 with opportunities for text study, conversation, and reflection.

HOME/LAND: Celebrating Israel at 73 A Day of Learning for Yom Ha'atzmaut **April 14 - 15, 2021**

Explore historic and modern perspectives on the State of Israel as we celebrate Israel's 73rd birthday on April 14-15.

[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.](#)

JCA Community Time Capsule 2020-21

Please join this project by contributing a [memory, photo, song, or quote/saying](#) that captures something about the essence of this past year, or reminds you of how it has felt, together with a description of what it means to you. Please send your Time Capsule submissions via [Google form](#) or by [emailing us](#) your memory! We are so excited to share this with our community, and to build something we can all reflect on in years to come.



'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!



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