

# HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



May 12, 2021 - 1 Sivan 5781

As we prepare for [Shavuot](#) early next week, followed shortly after by Memorial Day and the unofficial start of summer in Maine, we had planned to share that our attention this week is focused on [Center Day Camp](#) summer preparations, collecting and interpreting our [Programming Survey](#) results and the data from the recent [Pew Survey of Jewish Americans](#), and on Goldman Family Preschool graduation celebrations.

Sadly, the last few days have seen escalating tensions in Israel erupt into violence, with many parts of the country currently under attack from a barrage of rocket fire, forcing millions to seek refuge.

In this moment, we encourage our community to seek a deeper understanding of this incredibly complex situation and to direct any efforts towards reaching a peaceful resolution for both sides.

Please find links below to statements from our national affiliates - the Jewish Federations of North America, and the JCC Association, as well as from the Anti-Defamation League.

- [Statement from the Jewish Federations of North America](#)
- [Statement from the Jewish Community Centers of North America](#)
- [Statement from the Anti-Defamation League](#)

## JCA PROGRAMS

### **PAULA SHOYER - *The Instant Pot Kosher Cookbook***

*Presented in partnership with the JCC Literary Consortium*  
**Thursday, May 13th | 7:30 PM ET**



Live cooking demo for Shavuot with Paula Shoyer, "the Kosher Baker!" Paula will be pulling out all the stops, making a few delicious dishes just in time for Shavuot! First, it's NY cheesecake in the Instant Pot followed by a more traditional recipe for her famed blintzes. Either way, you don't need an Instant Pot to participate -- all of her recipes can be made using appliances you already own!

Both recipes are available at the link if you'd like to purchase your ingredients in advance and cook along with Paula!

**Tickets:** \$6 virtual admission, or \$30 includes the book and shipping

[Register](#)

**SONGS & STORIES: Jewish Jazz**



Let singer and storyteller Gilda Solve transport you back in time with a special program featuring some of the most brilliant Jewish Jazz composers ever! Learn stories that give insights into these beloved songs; enjoy Gilda's performance of favorites from Benny Goodman to Irving Berlin, Artie Shaw to Jerome Kern.

[Register](#)

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**FIGHTING WHITE SUPREMACY IN 2021:  
FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE TO THE CAPITOL**

*Presented by the JCA's Community Relations Council*  
**Tuesday, May 25th | 7 PM EST**



Tuesday, May 25th, 7pm ET

From the Charlottesville violence to the Capitol insurrection to the shootings in Atlanta targeting the Asian American community, hate crimes and domestic extremism are at record levels -- and we're facing a dangerous and dire threat of white supremacy.

Join us via Zoom for a critical conversation with Integrity First for America's (IFA) Amy Spitalnick on their groundbreaking Charlottesville suit and how we can fight back against the rising tide of violent hate. We will be joined by Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, Portland City Councilor Pious Ali, and Reverend Kenneth Lewis who will participate in this important conversation.

*Co-sponsored by*

*Center for Small Town Jewish Life | Green Memorial A.M.E Zion Church | Hope Gateway Church | Hope Acts | Immigrant Legal Aid Project | Maine Jewish Museum | Maine Council of Churches | Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition | National Council of Jewish Women | Portland Empowered | Temple Beth El Portland | Temple Beth El Augusta | Welcoming the Stranger | Temple Shalom Auburn | Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine | Greater Portland Immigrant Rights Center | Etz Chaim Synagogue Portland*

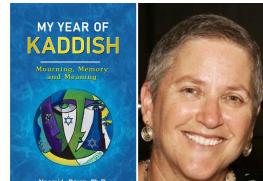
*\*Integrity First for America (IFA) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to holding those accountable who threaten longstanding principles of our democracy—including our country's commitment to civil rights and equal justice.*

[Register](#)

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**My Year of Kaddish: Mourning, Memory and Meaning**  
**A virtual book talk with author Naomi Baum**

*Presented by the JCA as part of the Jewish Book Council Network*  
**Sunday, June 6th | 10:00 AM EST**



In this profoundly honest and revealing memoir, psychologist Dr. Naomi L. Baum invites us to journey with her as she says *Kaddish*, the traditional Jewish mourner's prayer, in the year following her mother's death. When experiencing loss, we are often without words to describe how we are feeling. Finding a place to rest the pain, this book travels through the seasons of grief and will resonate with anyone who has lost someone dear. Dr. Baum, an international consultant on trauma and resilience, draws on both her personal and professional experience to navigate this uncharted territory, as she takes a new look at tradition and discovers both emotional and spiritual sources of comfort in unexpected places.

The book is available to order [here](#).

[Register](#)

## **TORAH CONVERSATIONS**

An online weekly study group facilitated by Ellie Miller  
Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM



We continue our journey through the book of Genesis, engaged in a careful reading of every word of the text. We focus on language and structure along with the tales the text imparts.

This is a weekly 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.

To join the study group email list and receive the Zoom link, weekly readings and schedule updates, contact our volunteer Diane Newman.

[Email Diane for the Zoom link](#)

## **AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD**

\*Local programs highlighted in light blue

### **MJFF WEEKEND EDITION Film Streaming**

*Presented by the Maine Jewish Film Festival*

**Friday, May 14th at 9 AM – Sunday, May 16 at midnight**

#### ***Here We Are (2020)***

Aharon, a devoted and protective father, puts his career as an artist aside to care full time for Uri, his autistic son. But on the eve of his son's entering a special-needs boarding school, Aharon decides to take Uri on a road trip across Israel.



#### ***Love & Stuff (2020)***

Months after helping her terminally ill mother have a “good death” filmmaker Judith Helfand becomes a single mother at 50. At the same time, she faces the challenges of how to deal with the mountains of ‘stuff’ her parents left her. Judith Helfand will join MJFF for a live discussion on May 16 at 7 PM.

[Reserve Tickets via MJFF](#)

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### **The Garden Committee's 11th Annual Outdoor Plant Sale**

*Congregation Bet Ha'am - 81 Westbrook St. South Portland*

**Sunday, May 16, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**



All plant sale proceeds support the Garden Committee's efforts to plant, harvest and donate fresh produce from our raised bed gardens to those in need, to promote educational gardening events and projects at Bet Ha'am and to care for our beautiful gardens.

\*All Covid Safety Protocols will be followed.

### **DAWN – An all night culture and arts festival for Shavuot**

*Presented by Reboot and the Jewish Emergent Network*

**Sunday, May 16 – Monday May 17**



DAWN will provide something for everyone throughout the 12 hours of music, film, comedy, dance, food and teaching across multiple channels.

**THE HISTORY OF JEWISH LIFE IN BIDDEFORD-SACO****A Virtual Community Presentation in honor of Jewish****American Heritage Month***Presented by the Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center***Thursday, May 20th | 6:30 PM**

BCHC board member, local historian, and fourth-generation member of one of Biddeford's oldest Jewish families, Jennie E.

Aranovitch will speak on Jewish emigration to Biddeford, including the history of Biddeford's synagogue, Congregation Etz Chaim and the cultural aspects of Jewish life in Biddeford-Saco. She will discuss adherence to kosher dietary laws, the evolving role of women, the establishment of local chapters of national Jewish organizations, contributions of local Jewish war veterans and the important role played by Jewish business owners in the area, particularly in Biddeford's downtown.

To request the Zoom link, please contact Cantor Beth Strassler

[Request the Zoom Link](#)**GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY'S STEPS FOR LIFE VIRTUAL 5K**

Join JCCs and other communities across the country in the fight to cure blood cancers through stem cell and bone marrow transplants! Each of us has the power within us to save someone's life.



You can complete the Steps for Life Virtual 5k from any location and at any time! Run, jog or walk on the road, trail or treadmill while keeping a safe distance from other runners. You get to participate in your own race and at your own pace!

[Register & Learn More](#)**JCA NEWS & UPDATES****Israeli Culture at Center Day Camp**

Are you passionate about sharing Israeli culture, history, songs, stories, or food with kids? This summer at Center Day Camp, our beloved Shlachim program (emissaries from Israel) will be on hiatus, so we are looking for community members to help bring the joy and magic of Israel to CDC! Whether you are interested in running a program for one week or one day, we'd love to talk with you! Please contact Director Chris Thurston at [cdc@mainejewish.org](mailto:cdc@mainejewish.org)

**KJFS Mobile Food Pantry - New Food Box Pickup & Deliveries!**

Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services is thrilled to announce that beginning April 27th we will be offering food box pickups at the JCA, along with deliveries directly to homes of individuals and families in Cumberland & York Counties. The food boxes have been generously provided by Wayside Food Programs and include a variety of non-perishable items. We will be delivering twice weekly, on Tuesday and Thursdays. If you are in need, or if you know of any individuals/families who are homebound and in need of food, please contact us at 207-772-1959 or [kjfs@mainejewish.org](mailto:kjfs@mainejewish.org).

**Employment Opportunities at the JCA and Center Day Camp**

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.](#)

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)



Jewish Community Alliance | (207) 772-1959, 1342 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102

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