

HERE FOR YOU. HERE FOR GOOD.



October 27, 2021 - 21 Cheshvan 5782

JCA PROGRAMS

*Local programs highlighted in light blue

SIGD 2021: In between Israel & Ethiopia

Marking the 30th Anniversary of Operation Solomon

A Zoom event presented by the Consulate General of Israel to New England, and co-sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Get Konnected, Hebrew College, and the JCA

Wednesday, November 3rd | 7:00 PM ET



The Consulate General of Israel to New England invites you to the 2021 Sigd event, dedicated to the cultural heritage of the Ethiopian Jewry, also known as the Beta Israel community. We will explore the remarkable story of the community's journey to Israel and their integration process, through the ancient holiday of Sigd. The State of Israel recognized Sigd as a national holiday in 2008.

[Register](#)

2021 VIRTUAL MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL Streaming online November 6th - 14th

Join MJFF for 17 feature and documentary films and related programs, all available to view from the comfort (and safety) of your home. For a preview of the films, visit www.mjff.org

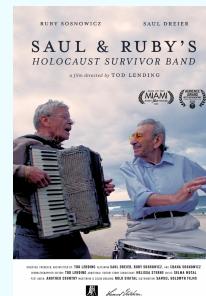


The JCA is pleased to present the following films with MJFF:

Saul & Ruby's Holocaust Survivors Band

A free screening sponsored by The Cedars and presented in partnership with the JCA

Like many survivors of the Holocaust after World War II, Saul and Ruby moved to America, started families and careers, grew old, and retired to South Florida. Then in their 90's, they decided to start a klezmer band, named the Holocaust Survivor Band. In this enthralling film, we follow Saul and Ruby's musical journey, which travels from playing in residential homes for the elderly and small Jewish community organizations, to being invited to perform at venues across the country, including a performance at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.



Trailer: <https://youtu.be/5VgtCCYaj1c>

[Love it Was Not](#)

Helena Citron is taken to Auschwitz as a young woman, and soon finds unlikely solace under the tutelage of Franz Wunsch, a high-ranking SS officer who falls in love with her and her magnetic singing voice. Risking a certain execution if caught, their forbidden relationship went on until her miraculous liberation. But when a letter arrives from Wunsch's wife, thirty years later, begging Helena to testify on Wunsch's behalf, she's faced with an impossible decision: will she help the man who brutalized so many lives, but saved hers, along with some of the people closest to her?



On Sunday, November 7 at 2:00 PM, Director Maya Sarfaty joins MJFF for a live conversation.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/413976173>

MJFF tickets and films will be available from Eventive. If you are new to Eventive or need a refresher course, [click here](#) for more information on how Eventive works. You'll have the option to buy an all festival pass, a package of six tickets, or individual tickets. All tickets are per household.

All films will be available during the entire festival. Conversations with filmmakers will be held at specific times and will also be recorded for later viewing. **Tickets are on sale now!**

[MJFF tickets and more info](#)

SONG CIRCLE, OUTSIDE with Cantor Sheila Nesis

JCA green space – 1342 Congress St., Portland - the lawn at the back of our property, behind our parking lot

Sunday, Nov. 7th | 2:00 – 3:00 PM



Join us for this *kumzitz* (literally from Yiddish, "come", "sit", and sing!), an opportunity to sing in community, and learn new songs or *niggunim* (traditional folk melodies). Bring your own blanket or chair, as we gather at the green space outdoors, weather permitting. No singing or musical experience required; just bring your smile and desire to experience community through song!

This free event is intended for adults / people ages 12+. Participants must be masked and maintain social distancing.

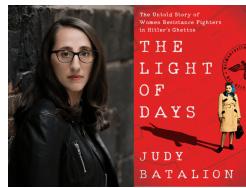
RSVP by Friday Nov. 5th at 12 pm to Cantor Nesis. Registered participants will be notified via email if the event is cancelled due to the weather.

[RSVP to Cantor Nesis](#)

JUDY BATALION DISCUSSES *The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos*

A virtual author talk presented by the JCA in partnership with the JCCs of Albuquerque, Ann Arbor, Cincinnati, Houston, Marblehead, Richmond and Tenafly - Hosted online by the Houston JCC

Sunday, Nov. 14th | 8:00 PM EST



Powerful and inspiring, *The Light of Days* is an unforgettable true tale of war, the fight for freedom, exceptional bravery, female friendship, and survival in the face of staggering odds.

Advanced registration required by 12PM on Sunday 11/14 to receive the Zoom link.
Tickets: \$10 – JCA members | \$12 – General public. The book is available to [order locally from our friends at Longfellow Books.](#)

[Register](#)

SAVE THE DATE for VOICES OF MAINE'S LOST SYNAGOGUES

Live virtual panel discussion with audience Q+A

Presented by the Maine Jewish Museum | Co-sponsored by the JCA, the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine

Wednesday, November 17th | 7:00 PM



Jews have been living in Maine for 200 years, practicing in up to 30 active synagogues built to anchor Jewish communities across the state. Half of those synagogues no longer exist. Veteran ABC, CBS, CNN, and FOX producer, writer, director and media consultant Jo Dondis will bring together voices of these lost synagogues who will help tell the story of the impressive span of Maine's Jewish community life throughout the state.

Streaming link to come and at www.mainejewishmuseum.org

JCA ADULT EDUCATION

DUALITIES: Female Power and Powerlessness in the Bible and Talmud

An 8-session online adult education course with Ellie Miller

Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 21 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM



In this 8-week course we'll explore female depictions in the Bible and how the text evolves in Talmudic and later literature, including in the writings of contemporary female scholars.

We'll begin with Eve and Lilith, examine the arc of the text in Judges and Samuel, consider God and the Shechinah, and some of the depictions of and rules concerning women in the Talmud.

A Hebrew Bible is required - all translations are appropriate. Additional class readings will be provided via email to registered students.

Advanced registration required by Friday, Oct. 29 to receive the Zoom link for the class. Suggested tuition: \$120. Finances should not be a barrier to participation.

[Register](#)

TORAH CONVERSATIONS: A weekly online study group facilitated by Ellie Miller

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM



We continue our journey through the Torah, beginning with the book of Exodus, engaged in a careful reading of every word of the text. We focus on language and structure along with the stories and values the text imparts.

This is a weekly Zoom 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. The sessions will last one hour, with an opportunity to continue the discussion for an additional 15 minutes until 11:15 AM.

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

[Sign up to join the group](#)

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

*Local programs highlighted in light blue

FALL SHABBATON with Elana Arian

With the Center for Small Town Jewish Life

Friday, October 29 - Saturday, October 30, 2021

Join us for a new version of the much-anticipated Fall Shabbaton with some in-person and some virtual programming:



Friday, Oct. 29 at 6:30 pm - live-streamed musical Kabbalat Shabbat service with Elana Arian and Rabbi Rachel Isaacs. This will be available to the entire community. Register to get the link.

Saturday, Oct. 30 - join us in person at Temple Beth El in Augusta, outdoors under a tent, for a Shabbat afternoon of music, learning, and delicious food.

- 1:30 pm: Live Concert with Elana Arian
- 3 pm: Torah Study
- 4:30 pm: Falafel for all!

We are beyond excited to welcome you online and in person for this enriching, inspiring weekend. For more details, and to register, check out the Shabbaton [website](#).

[Register](#)

ikar | עיר book talks

Can We Talk About ISRAEL?

THIRD-PARTY
PEACEMAKERS
IN JUDAISM

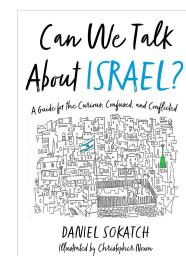
Special virtual events with Congregation IKAR, Los Angeles

CAN WE TALK ABOUT ISRAEL?

With New Israel Fund CEO Daniel Sokatch and Rabbi Sharon Brous

Thursday, October 28th | 8 PM ET

At last, a primer for the Israel/Palestine situation, one of the most complicated conflicts on earth. *Can We Talk About Israel?: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted*, raises the Israel questions that Jews ask and are asked all the time. Daniel Sokatch, one of the most influential Jewish thinkers and activists in the country, approaches the subject in a fair-minded, accessible manner.



[RSVP for the livestream link](#)

MEDIATING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: From the Inside

Led by Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth and in conversation with Rabbi Brous

Sunday, October 31st | 1 PM ET

We are thrilled to bring Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth, Director of Mosaica - The Religious Peace Initiative, which engages religious leaders in mediation, conflict resolution, and religious peacebuilding, to IKAR for a four-part series. Rabbi Dr. Roth is a lecturer of religion and conflict resolution at Bar-Ilan University's Conflict



Resolution, Management, and Negotiation Program in Israel. He was the founder and director of the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution and the Mahloket Matters Project. *Upcoming sessions will be held virtually: December 19, January 23, and February 27.*

[Register for the Zoom link](#)

Beyond the Pew Report: UNDERSTANDING SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA With Rabbi David Freidenreich

A virtual event presented by Congregation Etz Chaim, Biddeford
Thursday, November 11th | 6:30 PM



Over a million American Jews - one out of every eight - live in counties with fewer than 10,000 Jews. In some respects, Jews who live outside of major metropolitan areas reflect broader trends captured in national studies like the 2020 Pew Report, but these studies fail to capture distinctive aspects of small town Jewish life. We'll explore the current state of American Jewishness, with particular attention to dynamics in places like Biddeford.

David Freidenreich, the Pulver Family Professor of Jewish Studies at Colby College, directs the national impact efforts of the Center for Small Town Jewish Life. The Center cultivates vibrant, socially equitable communities rooted in their own sense of place, nourished by transformational learning, and intertwined with the broader Jewish world.

[RSVP to Cantor Beth Strassler](#)

JCA NEWS & UPDATES

JCA APPROVED AS HIAS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PARTNER



Last week, [HIAS](#) announced that the Department of State has approved seven new resettlement locations that will be part of HIAS' national resettlement network to help provide homes and support for refugees when they arrive in the United States. The new locations, including Portland, Maine, are spread across the nation, a sign that there is a place for refugees everywhere in the United States and in Maine.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NOW HIRING AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE:

[Refugee Resettlement Program Manager](#)

[PJ Library Coordinator](#)

[Toddler Teacher - Goldman Family Preschool](#)

[Support Teacher - Goldman Family Preschool](#)

NOW HIRING IN THE COMMUNITY:

[Executive Director - Maine Jewish Museum](#)

[Administrative Assistant - Congregation Bet Ha'am](#)



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

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