



# Arts, Adults, Culture and Learning at the J

Programs and events for PrimeTime Adults, Cultural Arts, Culinary Arts, JCC Cares and more



## TIPS & TRICKS FOR 2025 MAH JONGG CARD WITH KAREN GOOEN, AUTHOR OF *SEARCHING FOR BUBBE FISCHER*, *THE PATH TO MAH JONGG WISDOM*

**Wednesday, April 9, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

10 - 11:15 a.m. Karen Gooen Tips & Tricks - Virtual  
11:15 a.m. Catered Brunch

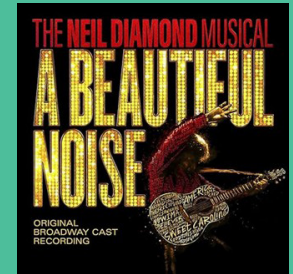
12 - 2:30 p.m. Playtime to try your new card

Learn how to approach and manage the new card! Welcome back, Karen Gooen, who will be presenting her exceptional advice for mastering the strategies and secrets of the 2025 card.

JCC Members: \$40 Public: \$45 Register by 4/3

## J TIX AT SCFTA

JCC Priority Center Front Orchestra Seating. Tickets assigned in the order of purchase and groups.



**Sunday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.**

JCC Members \$157  
Public \$170



# Reflections Remember. Reflect. Rebuild.

*Acknowledging Then & Now*



Join us for our annual observance of Israel's national holidays at the Merage JCC.

### Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day

**Wednesday, April 23, 6 p.m.**

Community-wide commemoration and candle-lighting ceremony to remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to pay tribute to the survivors. Following the ceremony, there will be a showing of *White Bird*.

### Yom Hazikaron: Israel's Memorial Day

**Tuesday, April 29, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.**

Annual memorial ceremony led by Shevet Tapuz (Israeli Scouts OC) honoring those who have fallen in defense of the State of Israel and victims of terrorism.

### Yom Ha'atzmaut: Israel's Independence Day

**Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m.**

In celebration of Israel's 77th birthday please join us for a special Yom Ha'atzmaut film screening of *The Stronghold*.

### Celebrate Israel

**Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.**

Community-wide outdoor celebration of Israel's 77th birthday will take place at the TVT lower school field. Israeli food, games, musical/dance performances and fun for all ages.



Merage Jewish Community Center of Orange County

1 Federation Way  
Irvine, CA 92603

949.435.3400  
jccoc.org

## April

### MADE BY CHEF LIRON: S'MORES CHALLAH

Order by Wednesday, April 2, 2 p.m.

Pick up on Friday, April 4, 12 - 3 p.m.

Traditional: \$10 S'mores: \$12



### ISRAELI FILM SERIES: HOME

Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.

In the explosive true-crime drama based on the writer/director's personal experiences, newlywed Yair, a devoted yeshiva student, dares to challenge tradition by opening a computer store in his ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem neighborhood.

Drama, 111 minutes, Directed by: Benny Fredman  
JCC Members: \$10 Public: \$15

### SIPS & SINGLES 60+

Saturday, April 5, 6 p.m.

Bacchus Bar & Bistro, 6735 Quail Hill Parkway, Irvine

Open to the community

Contact: Rochelle Volpert, rochellevolpert@gmail.com

### THEIR FAVORITE DISHES:

### COOKING THE FAVORITE DISHES OF THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES

Tal Shoham's crumb cheesecake

Thursday, April 10, 6 p.m.

Join our shinshinim, Anna and Yahelly, as they select recipes from the "Weeks of Longing" project -- a project that through food honors the hostages, some released, some still in captivity, and others who have died.

JCC Members: \$18 Public: \$24



### JSTAGE: SPRING COMMUNITY PRODUCTION PROUDLY PRESENTS: THE SOUND OF MUSIC

April 19 - May 4, 2025

Music by RICHARD RODGERS  
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II  
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and  
RUSSEL CROUSE

Suggested by "The Trapp Family  
Singers" by Maria Augusta

TrappPresented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

www.concordtheatricals.com.

Ticket sales are live on our website! Don't miss out on this important and timeless production!

Online: \$25 At the Door: \$30

### LIFELONG LEARNING LUNCH CELEBRATE ISRAELI MUSIC WITH CANTOR SHIKLER

Tuesday, April 22 12 - 2 p.m.

Join us for a special concert with SHM's Cantor Emeritus Arie Shikler, showcasing his soundscape of Israel's music through the years as part of our Lifelong Learning Lunch series. Experience an afternoon of soulful melodies and inspiring stories that celebrate the richness of Israeli musical tradition.

A collaboration of Merage JCC and Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot. Partially funded by a grant from the the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County

JCC & Shir Ha-Ma'alot Members: \$20 Public: \$25

Register by April 16



### CANASTA: LEARN TO PLAY

Thursday, April 24 - May 15, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Learn to play this fun and popular game. Small classes with individual instruction. Includes instruction book (valued at \$20)

Instructor: Felicia Lurner, Certified Canasta Instructor with the Canasta League of America

JCC Members: \$150, Public: \$160 (four-week class/ 2 hours/week)

### WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Thursday, April 24, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join our friendly discussion group and enjoy stimulating conversations. Learn about changing lifestyle, possibilities, purpose and happiness.

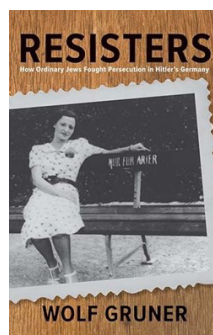
Share with other women who are each on their own journey.

JCC Members Only: Free

### MAKE & TAKE CHALLAH ON MAIN STREET

Friday, April 25, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Stop by and visit with our Israeli shinshinim, Anna & Yahelly, and braid your own challah to take home and bake for Shabbat



### REFLECTIONS

### NEWS & VIEWS PRESENTS:

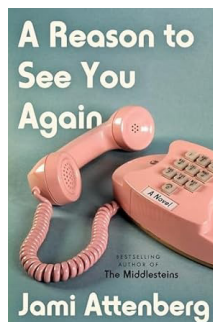
### RESISTERS: HOW ORDINARY JEWS FOUGHT PERSECUTION IN HITLER'S GERMANY BY PROFESSOR WOLF GRUNER

Monday, April 28, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Wolf Gruner speaks in person giving a compelling account of individual Jews who resisted Nazi persecution. Drawing on twelve years of research in dozens of archives in Austria, Germany, Israel, and the U.S, this book

tells the story of five Jewish people who bravely resisted persecution and defended themselves in Nazi Germany.

JCC Members: Free Public: \$10



### BOOKS & BAGELS:

### A REASON TO SEE YOU AGAIN BY JAMI ATTENBERG

Tuesday, April 29, 10 - 11 a.m.

A dazzling novel of family, following a forty year journey through a changing landscape of America by a New York Times best selling author. Discussion led by Dana Susson, Esq. Author virtual, participants meet at JCC  
JCC Members & Community: Free

## May

### MADE BY CHEF LIRON:

### PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE CHIP CHALLAH

Order by Wednesday, April 30, 2 p.m.

Pick up on Friday, May 2, 12 - 3 p.m.

Traditional: \$10 Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip: \$12

### SIPS AND SINGLES 60+ SUMMER TIME

Saturday, May 3, 6 p.m.

The Stand Irvine, 5633 Alton Parkway

Open to the community

Contact: Rochelle Volpert, rochellevolpert@gmail.com

### TOUR THE BROAD AND MOCA MUSEUMS IN LA

Wednesday, May 7 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hop on a Luxury Bus and join us for a day of fun and art as we explore the Broad and Moca Museums. You will start the day with the Broad and a private entry to the Infinity Mirrored Room followed by a private docent tour. Enjoy lunch on your own at the beautiful plaza and then go across the street to the Moca Museum. Lynne Kaplan will be your guide along with other professional docent tours.

JCC Members: \$110 Public: \$120 Includes bus & docent tours

## 50 WAYS TO LOVE YOUR IPHONE

**Tuesday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

A single two-hour class on the most useful tips and features that many iPhone users probably are not familiar with. Minimum requirements:

1. iPhone XR or Xs or newer
2. iOS 18.4 or latest installed
3. Some familiarity with iPhone basic functions such as Mail, Messages, Notes, Calendar, and Contacts
4. A class handbook is included.

JCC Members: \$20 Public: \$25

## BALANCE, FLEXIBILITY & BODY ALIGNMENT

**Tuesdays, May 13 - July 1, 12 - 1 p.m.**

Learn exercises that help the body regain a healthy posture and improved balance. Increase your range of motion, functionality and learn how to become pain free.

Instructor: Shane Johnston, Egoscue Postural Assessment Specialist  
JCC Members Only: \$115 (per 8 class series)

## WELLNESS WISDOM:

### **THE VAGINA BUSINESS: THE INNOVATIVE BREAKTHROUGHS THAT COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING IN WOMEN'S HEALTH**

**Wednesday May 14, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

*The Vagina Business*, award-winning journalist Marina Gerner PhD takes an eye-opening look at the innovators challenging the status quo to deliver the healthcare solutions women need. She explores the future of women's health, where female-focused companies are developing products to help women at every stage of life.

Virtual appearance by author, participants meet at the JCC  
JCC Members: Free Public: \$10

## BONE DENSITY BOOTCAMP

**Thursdays, May 15 - July 3, 1 - 1:50 p.m.**

This class focuses on improving bone density by including weight bearing exercises. With the use of free weights, bands, and your own body weight this class is designed to help restore and maintain muscle mass, bone density, and range of motion.

Instructor: Shane Johnston, Certified Personal Trainer  
JCC Members Only: \$115 - 8 class series

## THEIR FAVORITE DISHES:

### **COOKING THE FAVORITE DISHES OF THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES**

**Avinatan Or's ricotta and cherries sweet buns**

**Thursday, May 15, 6 p.m.**

Join our shinshinim, Anna and Yahelly, as they select recipes from the "Weeks of Longing" project - a project that through food honors the hostages, some released, some still in captivity, and others who have died.

JCC Members: \$18 Public: \$24

## MAH JONGG: LEARN TO PLAY

**Thursdays, May 22 - June 26, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Learn to play with a small, friendly class at the JCC.

Instructor: Lezlie Schreiber

Sign up in advance to reserve your spot.

JCC Members: \$200 Public: \$210 (six weekly classes/2 hours/week)

## VOLUNTEER AT THE OC FOOD BANK

**Thursday, May 22, 1 - 3 p.m.**

Join JCC Cares for a fun afternoon of giving back. We will be helping pack food boxes for seniors.

## MAH JONGG: SUPERVISED PLAY

**Thursday, May 22 - June 26, 1:45 - 3:15 p.m.**

Want to improve your Mah Jongg game skills? Practice & play under the supervision of our Mah Jongg teacher, Lezlie Schreiber.

JCC Members: \$160 Public: \$175 (six weekly classes/1.5 hours/week)

## MAKE & TAKE CHALLAH ON MAIN STREET

**Friday, May 23, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Stop by and visit with our Israeli shinshinim, Anna & Yahelly, and braid your own challah to take home and bake for Shabbat



## IT'S A SMALL WORLD A TASTING BRUNCH FEATURING STORIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL OC JEWISH COMMUNITY

**Sunday, May 25, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Join us as we share stories of Jewish Orange County families from all over

the world - their journeys, tribulations and joy as they arrived and thrived in our beloved OC. Enjoy delicious foods from their homelands, including Iran, Mexico, South Africa and more.

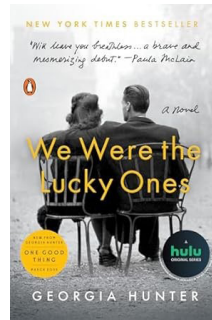
JCC Members: \$25 Public: \$35 Register by May 22

## WOMEN'S CONNECTION

**Thursday, May 29, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Join our friendly discussion group and enjoy stimulating conversations. Discuss changing lifestyle issues, possibilities, wellness, happiness and more. Most of all share with other interesting women who are each on their own journey.

JCC Members Only: Free



## BOOKS & BAGELS

### **WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES BY GEORGIA HUNTER**

**Tuesday, May 27, 10 - 11 a.m.**

Inspired by the incredible true story of one Jewish family separated at the start of World War II, determined to survive and to reunite. *We Were the Lucky Ones* is a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds. Author Virtual, Participants meet at JCC  
JCC Members & Community: Free

## June

### BLOOD DRIVE

**Wednesday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Join JCC Cares and the Southern California Bloodbank to donate blood and help save a life! Donating is safe, confidential, and easy.

### MADE BY CHEF LIRON: RAINBOW CHALLAH

**Order by Wednesday, June 4, 2 p.m.**

**Pick up on Friday, June 6, 12 - 3 p.m.**

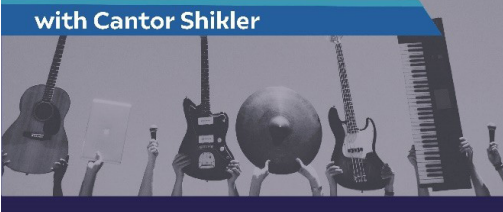
Traditional :\$10 Rainbow: \$12

For More Information, Contact:

Geri Dorman, PrimeTime Adults Director, [Gerid@jccoc.org](mailto:Gerid@jccoc.org) • Aliza Sable, Cultural Arts Director, [Alizas@jccoc.org](mailto:Alizas@jccoc.org)  
Liron Regev, Culinary Arts Director, [Lironr@jccoc.org](mailto:Lironr@jccoc.org) • Nicole Rosenson, Assistant Director of Cultural Arts, [Nicoler@jccoc.org](mailto:Nicoler@jccoc.org)  
Heather Zucker, Director of Jewish Engagement & JCC Cares, [Heatherz@jccoc.org](mailto:Heatherz@jccoc.org)

# Celebrate Israeli Music

with Cantor Shikler



**LIFELONG LEARNING LUNCH**



Lifelong Learning Lunch  
Celebrate Israeli Music with Cantor Shikler  
Tuesday, April 22  
12 - 2 p.m.

MERAGE JCC ORANGE COUNTY  
SHM  
LIFELONG LEARNING WITH FRIENDS  
ORANGE COUNTY

## June cont.



### ISRAELI FILM SERIES: PINK LADY

Thursday, June 5 at 7 p.m.

In an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Jerusalem, Bati has a seemingly perfect life. She is happily married to Lazer and the young couple have three children. But their world starts to crumble when Lazer is blackmailed by an extremely violent ultra-Orthodox gang and Bati discovers his secret affair with his male study partner. Desperate to protect her family and keep the man she loves, she supports Lazer as he

attempts to "cure" his homosexuality, while uncovering her true desires on a journey to self-discovery and liberation.  
Drama, 104 minutes, Director: Nir Bergman  
JCC Members: \$10 Public: \$15

### THEIR FAVORITE DISHES:

### COOKING THE FAVORITE DISHES OF THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES

Alon Ahel's favorite cinnamon

Thursday, June 19, 6 p.m.

Join our shishnim, Anna and Yahelly, as they select recipes from the "Weeks of Longing" project -- a project that through food honors the hostages, some released, some still in captivity, and others who have died.

JCC Members: \$18 Public: \$24

### JCC CARES POOL PARTY

Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join JCC Cares for a fun day of giving back. JCC Cares will be hosting a pool party and carnival for our friends from local non-profits. Volunteers are needed to help run booths, games, and activities.



### SAVE THE DATE! MAH JONGG FUNDAY SUNDAY

Sunday, July 13, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Enjoy a glass of bubbly and a fabulous bagel brunch, play and prizes given for certain completed hands!  
NOT A TOURNAMENT. Come and play with your friends, or we will introduce you to other players.  
Early bird JCC Members: \$30, Public: \$35 until 6/4  
JCC Members: \$35, Public: \$40 Register by 7/7

## Weekly Programs

JCC Members Only: Free

### NEWS & VIEWS - Mondays, 10 a.m.

News and Views is a weekly open forum for members to learn and discuss local and world issues such as current events, politics, Israel and economy. In-Person and Hybrid  
Facilitator: Bruce D. Spivack, Ph.D., MBA

### MEN'S CLUB DISCUSSION GROUP

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Come for the friendships, stimulating discussions and the bagels. Our members come from many business and professional backgrounds, and have varied and freely-expressed opinions on topics of interest, both of a Jewish and secular nature.  
Facilitator: Martin Dym Ph.D.

### GENTLE YOGA

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:15 or 10:30 a.m.

This gentle approach to yoga helps you increase flexibility, improve circulation and experience more energy during a relaxing Yoga experience. Instructors: Instructors: Dianne Daucher RYT, Eli Vared Ruben RYT

### MAH JONGG: CALLING JCC PLAYERS

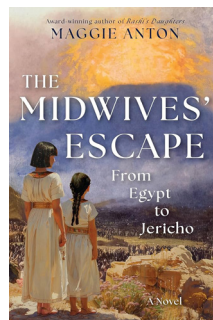
Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

If you know how to play, drop in at the JCC to play this popular game and meet other friendly Mah Jongg players.

### CANASTA: CALLING JCC PLAYERS

Mondays, 12 - 2:30 p.m.

If you know how to play, join in at the JCC to play this popular game and meet other friendly Canasta players. Contact Mary Ann if you are interested: [magholson@gmail.com](mailto:magholson@gmail.com)



### BOOKS & BAGELS

### THE MIDWIVES' ESCAPE: FROM EGYPT TO JERICHO WITH MAGGIE ANTON IN PERSON

Tuesday, June 24, 1 - 2 p.m.

Award winning author Maggie Anton presents, in person, her new historical novel filled with adventure, warfare and romance that is true to the Torah and to history.  
JCC Members: \$10 Public: \$12

### WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Thursday, June 26, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join our friendly discussion group and enjoy stimulating conversations. Discuss changing lifestyle issues, possibilities, wellness, happiness and more. Most of all share with other interesting women who are each on their own journey.

JCC Members Only: Free



Merage Jewish Community  
Center of Orange County

1 Federation Way  
Irvine, CA 92603

949.435.3400  
[jccoc.org](http://jccoc.org)