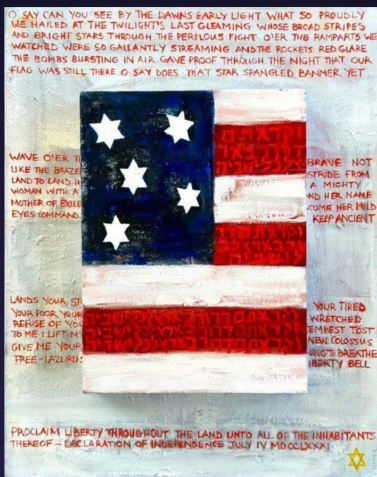


Arts, Adults, Culture and Learning at the J

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



L'Chaim America! America's 250th Anniversary



Sunday, June 28, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Brunch at 11 a.m.
Performance of Inspiring Jewish Stories at 12 p.m.

L'CHAIM AMERICA! A JEWISH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, June 28, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Brunch at 11 a.m.
Performance of Inspiring Jewish Stories at 12 p.m.
Location: Merage Jewish Community Center

Poignant and humorous contemporary stories illuminate inspiring diverse Jewish experiences and speak to the America we know in our hearts.

The Braid theatre company works innovatively to present the stage giving voice and celebrating untold Jewish stories.

A collaboration of Merage JCC and Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot.

Partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County for Lifelong Learning Lunches.

JCC & SHM Members: \$30, Public: \$36

Register by 6/22



Tips & Tricks for 2026 Mah Jongg Card with Karen Gooen

**Thursday, April 23,
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

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 2026 card.

Early Bird ends 3/26:
JCC Members: \$50,
Public: \$55

After 3/26:
JCC Members: \$55,
Public: \$60

Register by 4/19



ADEENA SUSSMAN - ZARIZ 100 EASY, BREEZY, TEL AVIV-Y RECIPES Sunday, May 31, 6 p.m.

Includes dinner, cooking demo and a panel discussion. Join us for a delicious dinner featuring recipes from Adeena Sussman's latest cookbook Zariz, followed by a cooking demo and panel discussion. The panel discussion with Adeena Sussman, Sharon Weider and Dr. Joshua G. Cohen will be moderated by Chef Liron Regev. This program is in collaboration with Sharsheret. Cookbooks will be available for purchase at the event.

B'tayavon Reception: includes event ticket, signed cookbook, and pre-event reception with the author at 5 P.M.

JCC Members: \$65, Public: \$80

B'tayavon Reception: JCC Members: \$118, Public: \$150

Pre-order book: \$30

Reserved B'tayavon table for 10 people: \$1100

This program is partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County.



April

JSTAGE: SPRING COMMUNITY PRODUCTION **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN**

March 28 - April 4

Based on the comic strip PEANUTS by Charles M. Schultz
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Clark Gesner
Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer
Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lipka

This performance will contain flashing lights and sudden, loud noises and is not recommended for children under the age of 3.
Performances: Saturday, March 28, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 28, 7 p.m., Sunday, March 29, 2 p.m., Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m., Saturday, April 4, 1 p.m., 7 p.m.



TASTE OF ISRAEL: MATZO BRITTLE

Thursday, April 9, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Join us each month on Main street for a different taste of Jewish traditions, history, and cultures. Eating Matzah every day can be boring. Try some Matzah brittle, a sweet way to enjoy your Matzah. It's so good you'll want to eat it all year round.

MADE BY CHEF LIRON: S'MORES CHALLAH

Order by Wednesday, April 15, 2 p.m.

Pick up on Friday, April 17, 12 - 3 p.m.

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

MAKE AND TAKE CHALLAH ON MAIN STREET

Friday, April 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

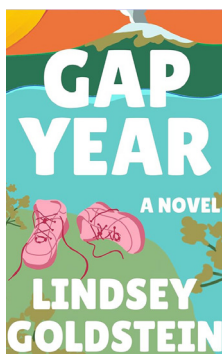
MAH JONGG: LEARN TO PLAY

Thursdays, April 23 - May 28, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Learn to play this popular game with a small, friendly class at the JCC. Instructor: Lezlie Schreiber

Sign up in advance to reserve your spot.

JCC Members: \$220, Public: \$235 (six weekly classes/ 2 hours/week)



BOOKS & BAGELS CELEBRATES LOCAL JEWISH AUTHORS

GAP YEAR: A NOVEL

LINDSEY GOLDSTEIN

IN PERSON

Tuesday, April 28, 10 - 11 a.m.

In this heartfelt, funny tale of reinvention, Jane's world unravels in just two days—her daughter leaves, her husband strays, and her job is on the line. So she does the unthinkable: she sets off on her own adult gap year. Lindsey is a JCC member. Led by Dana Susson, Esq.
JCC Members & Community: No charge

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

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

Join our friendly, vibrant women's discussion! Share thought provoking conversations, personal journeys and embrace new possibilities with a supportive group of women. Led by Bernardina Wilcox

JCC Members only: No charge

May

MAKE AND TAKE CHALLAH ON MAIN STREET

Friday, May 1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

BALANCE, FLEXIBILITY & BODY ALIGNMENT

Tuesdays, May 5 - June 23, 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 reduce pain. Instructor: Shane Johnston, Egoscue Postural Assessment Specialist

JCC Members Only: \$115 (8 class series)

JCC CARES ACTIVITY AT HERITAGE POINTE

Wednesday, May 6, 10:30 a.m.

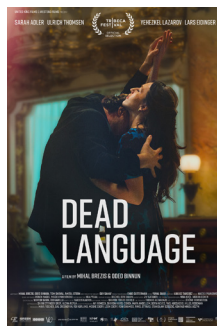
Join JCC Cares for a fun morning of arts and crafts with seniors at Heritage Pointe.

BONE DENSITY BOOTCAMP

Thursdays, May 7 - June 25, 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)



ISRAELI FILM SERIES

DEAD LANGUAGE

Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m.

Directed by Israeli duo Mihal Brezis and Oded Binnun, this feature expands their Oscar-nominated short Aya. When a woman impulsively picks up a stranger, a brief, intense connection unsettles her marriage and forces her to confront buried longings. Premiering at Tribeca and nominated for 12 Ophir Awards, the film explores desire and unspoken tensions.

JCC Members: \$10, Public: \$15

CANASTA: LEARN TO PLAY

Monday, May 11 & 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Learn to play this fun and popular game. Small class of 8 with individual instruction. Includes instruction book (valued at \$20) and lunch served at noon. Register early to secure your spot. Instructor: Felicia Lurner, Certified Canasta Instructor with the Canasta League of America
JCC Members: \$170, Public: \$185 (two-week class/4 hours/week)

MADE BY CHEF LIRON: CHURRO CHALLAH

Order by Wednesday, May 13, 2 p.m.

Pick up on Friday, May 15, 12 - 3 p.m.

Traditional: \$10, Churro: \$12

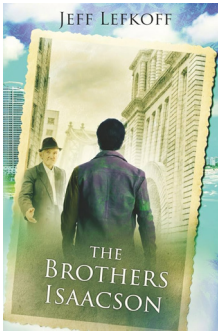
TASTE OF ISRAEL: ISRAELI CHEESECAKE

Thursday, May 14, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Join us each month on Main street for a different taste of Jewish traditions, history, and cultures. Indulge in the custom of eating dairy on Shavuot with some Israeli no bake cheesecake.

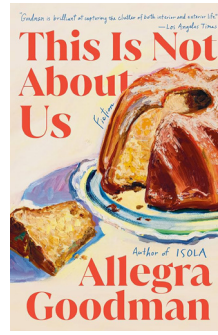
For More Information, Contact:

Geri Dorman, PrimeTime Adults Director, Gerid@jccoc.org • Aliza Sable, Cultural Arts Director, Alizas@jccoc.org
Liron Regev, Culinary Arts Director, Lironr@jccoc.org • Heather Zucker, Director of Jewish Engagement & JCC Cares, Heatherz@jccoc.org



BOOKS & BAGELS CELEBRATES LOCAL JEWISH AUTHORS
THE BROTHERS ISAACSON
JEFF LEFKOFF IN PERSON

Tuesday, May 26, 10 - 11 a. m.
The Brothers Isaacson is a 2024 historical novel following Jules Rothman, a young man who moves to Miami and meets his four eccentric great-uncles. Inspired by the author's own family, this heartfelt story explores identity, family legacy, love, and self-discovery. Jeff Lefkoff is retired UCI Associate Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor and a JCC member. Led by Dana Susson, Esq.
JCC Members & Community:
No charge



BOOKS & BAGELS
THIS IS NOT ABOUT US
ALLEGRA GOODMAN

Tuesday, June 30, 10 - 11 a.m.
A National Bestseller and New York Times Book Review- Editors' Choice
This Is Not About Us is a story of growing up and growing old, the weight of parental expectations, and the complex connection between sisters - a big-hearted book about the love that binds a family across generations. Author appears virtually, participants in person. Led by Dana Susson, Esq.
JCC Members & Community:
No charge



WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Thursday, May 28, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Join our friendly, vibrant women's discussion! Share thought provoking conversations, personal journeys and embrace new possibilities with a supportive group of women. Led by Bernardina Wilcox.
JCC Members only: No charge

June

JCC CARES BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, June 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Register and schedule your appointment to join JCC Cares and the San Diego Bloodbank in donating blood to help save a life.

MADE BY CHEF LIRON: RAINBOW CHALLAH

Order by Wednesday, June 3, 2 p.m.,
Pick up on Friday, June 5, 12 - 3 p.m.
Traditional \$10, Rainbow \$12



ISRAELI FILM SERIES
THE RING

Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m.
In *The Ring*, Arnon Noble travels to Budapest to find the gold ring his Holocaust-survivor mother believes once saved their lives. Joined by his estranged daughter, their search reveals family secrets, generational wounds, and a path toward reconciliation—blending humor with heartfelt drama. Dramatic comedy, 121 minutes, Director: Adir Miller
JCC Members: \$10, Public: \$15

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Join our friendly, vibrant women's discussion! Share thought provoking conversations, personal journeys and embrace new possibilities with a supportive group of women. Led by Bernardina Wilcox.
JCC Members only: No charge

the

LIGHTING THE PATH:
Building Jewish Community Together

CHAI CELEBRATION
Sunday, June 7, 2026
6 - 9 P.M. at the Merage JCC

honoring

Chancellor Howard Gillman
University of California, Irvine

Tamy Cohen
Orange County Hillel

Co-Chairs: Dr. Susan Samuelli
Dr. Adrienne Matros Wendy Stark

J TIX AT SCFTA

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



HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD

Sunday, July 12, 1 p.m.
JCC Members: \$200
Public: \$215
Purchase by 6/8



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Sunday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
JCC Members: \$170
Public: \$185

Weekly Programs

JCC Members Only: No Charge

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. Presentations by distinguished guest speakers. 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. Weekly presentations. Facilitator: Martin Dym Ph.D.

GENTLE YOGA

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & 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.

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 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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

This ongoing in person group helps individuals navigate through the challenges of loss. Facilitated by Chaplain Fran Chalin BCC/ MSW. Co sponsored by the Jewish Collaboration of Orange County. Open to the community: No charge



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

Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day

Monday, April 13, 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 *My Name is Sara*.

Yom Hazikaron: Israel's Memorial Day

Monday, April 20, 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, April 23, 7 p.m.

In celebration of Israel's 78th birthday please join us for a special Yom Ha'atzmaut film screening of *Air War* in partnership with IAC.

CommUNITY Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 24, 5 - 7 p.m.

Join us to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, with a festive Shabbat experience featuring an Israeli Shabbat dinner, music, crafts, and fun for kids, as well as honored guests.

Celebrate Israel

Sunday, May 3

Community-wide outdoor celebration of Israel's 78th birthday will take place at the TVT lower school field. Israeli food, games, musical/dance performances for all ages.



Merage Jewish Community
Center of Orange County

1 Federation Way
Irvine, CA 92603

949.435.3400
jccoc.org