

2024 Winter/Spring SPICE Course Guide



The Jews of American Jazz

Great Wines of the New World

Endless Wars in the Middle East and Beyond: Where, Who, and Why

Foreign Film Festival

The Glory of Google

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: History of the U.S. Nuclear Deterrent

The Jewish History of Baltimore Department Stores: Cathedrals of Consumerism

Never Forget: The Germans and the Holocaust

Guitars and their Music

The Plow, The Pistol, and the Prayerbook: Major Trends of Ideology and Spirituality in Jewish Culture

Here Come the Presidential Election Campaigns: Are You Ready?

Staying Safer Online: New Technologies and How to Protect Yourself



The Jews of American Jazz

Mondays in January, 8, 22, 29 10:30-12:00pm

Tuesday, January 16 1:00-2:30pm (in place of MLK Day)

Hybrid



\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)

The Jews of American Jazz: An examination of the personalities, lives and careers of Jewish-American musicians -- including Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Stan Getz, Terry Gibbs, and others -- whose pioneering contributions shaped this uniquely American genre of jazz music. Classic recordings, video clips, and "live" performances from the instructor will make this course swing like the music itself!

You might know **Seth Kibel** as the funky clarinet player at HSOSC's High Holy Days services. He is one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in klezmer, jazz, swing and more. Wowing audiences on clarinet, sax and flute, Seth has made a name for himself in the Washington/Baltimore region and beyond. He is the featured performer with the Kleztet, Bay Jazz Project, Music Pilgrim Trio, The Natty Beaux and more. Winner of 28 Washington Area Music Awards (Wammies), including "Best World Music Instrumentalist" (2003-2011) and "Best Jazz Instrumentalist" (2005, 2007-8, 2011-2014). His most recent recording, "When You're Smiling" was released in 2018 on the Azalea City Recordings record label. His song "New Waltz" was the grand prize winner of 2016 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest (MASC), sponsored by the Songwriter's Association of Washington (SAW). When he is not performing, Seth frequently lectures on a variety of topics in music history for numerous institutions, including Osher Lifelong Learning programs at Johns Hopkins and Towson Universities and SPICE at Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation.

Great Wines of the New World

Thursdays in January, 4, 11, 18, 25
10:30-12:00pm

In Person Only

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)

***Plus \$15 fee pp for tasting**

Learn about the grapes and wines of each New World region (South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, South America and North America) from a certified wine specialist. Review the history, geography and climate of each region as it affects the production of wine. Discuss the different grapes that are used to make the different wines in each region. Each week, get a list of recommended wines from each region so you can do more exploration on your own. We will also be tasting wines from each region each week.



Great Vines & Wines is an organization that provides education to individuals and culinary professionals who wish to expand their knowledge of wine, wine and food pairings, and fine wine service. Founder **Deborah Reitz** began her wine journey as a natural development of her passions for cooking and travel. During that time, Deborah developed a broad knowledge of wine and eventually formalized her training through the Wine and Spirits Education Trust and the Society for Wine Educators. She earned credentials as a Certified Specialist of Wine [CSW] through the Society of Wine Educators. In addition, she earned a Certificate in Wines of France and a Certificate in Wines of Italy from Cornell University. Deborah is a member of the Society for Wine Educators and the American Wine Society.

Endless Wars in the Middle East and Beyond: Where, Who, and Why

Thursdays in February, 1, 8, 15, 22
10:30-12:00pm

Zoom Only

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)



Part 1: Overview of primary conflict zones and demarcation of geopolitical fault lines

Real friends, convenient friends, fake friends – real enemies, convenient enemies, fake enemies

Introduction to diplomacy: track 1, track 2, track 3 Confidentiality, secrecy, and plausible deniability. Select case studies with special focus on Israel, USA, Russia, China, Iran, and the Gulf monarchies

Part 2: Hostages and the economics of war

War profits: warlords, enablers, and victims

Trade in human beings, weapons, drugs, commodities

Understanding incentives

Case study: sex trafficking in war zones: the economics of criminal rings and their target customers

Financial institutions: useful idiots or eager participants? Special focus on the laundering of Captagon profits and Ghaddafi billions

Weaponizing refugees

Part 3: Alliances: the good, the bad, and the ugly

Iran and its affiliates: Lebanon (Hezbollah), Iraq, Yemen (Houthi), Gaza (Hamas)

My personal journey: from the IDF to coffee with Qasem Soleimani and a night with Hassan Nasrallah

Case study of clandestine cooperation among enemies: the rescue of a US hostage in Southeast Asia

Part 4: A better way

Principle 1: Understanding incentives and aligning interests

Principle 2: Balance and scale diplomacy

Principle 3: Identifying traps and eliminating solution assassins

Case study 1: USA-China (Taiwan, DPRK)

Case study 2a: Israel-Iran

Case study 2b: Israel-Palestine

Daniel Levin was born in Israel and spent his early years as the son of a diplomat in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Following his law studies and an initial academic career, he has spent the last twenty-five years working with governments and development institutions worldwide, focusing on economic development and political reform through financial literacy, political inclusion, and constitutional initiatives. He is also engaged in track 3 diplomacy, mediation efforts, and hostage negotiations in war zones in his capacity as executive member of the board of the Liechtenstein Foundation for State Governance. www.lfsg.org www.daniellevinauthor.com

Foreign Film Festival

Mondays in February, 5, 12, 26
10:00-12:00pm

In Person Only

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)



Film One: “Papicha” – 2019 – from Algeria – in French and Arabic languages with English subtitles – directed by Mounia Meddour – 1 hour 48 minutes running time – 88% Rotten Tomatoes rating
Plot: Set in Algeria in the 1990s, Papicha tells the story of Nedjma, an 18-year-old student who loves fashion and going out with her girlfriends. This lifestyle is challenged by a growing campaign for women to wear the burqa. Her life changes after a dramatic attack and Nedjma decides to create a fashion show as a symbol of resistance. Meddour, director has made a deeply complex film about sisterhood. It's set against the backdrop of the Algerian civil war, starting in 1991, which saw conflicts between the Algerian government and different armed groups. By the time it was over, there were more than 150,000 dead, thousands exiled and one million displaced. These years have become known in some circles as the "black decade".

Film Two: “Phoenix” – 2015 – from Germany – in German with English subtitles – directed by Christian Petzold – 1 hour 38 minutes running time – 98% Rotten Tomatoes rating
Plot – In Phoenix, a woman survives an experience where she was torn away from her husband and placed in a concentration camp where her face was severely marred by a bullet wound. After the war, her face is reconstructed, resulting in one which nobody recognizes, not even her husband, who she refuses to consider might be the one who gave her up to the Germans to begin with, due to her partial Jewish heritage. The relationship she opts to rekindle with her husband is perversely one where he asks her to impersonate his wife for financial gain. Eventually, she realizes he was complicit in her capture and he realizes who she really is, resulting in pain and suffering for them both yet again.

Film Three: “Happy as Lazzaro” – 2018 – from Italy – in Italian with English subtitles – directed by Alice Rohrwacher – 2 hour 7 minutes running time – 91 % Rotten Tomatoes rating
Plot - The hero of director Rohrwacher’s deceptively gentle modern fairy tale—based on the bizarre true story of a remote Italian village whose inhabitants were conned into living as tithe-paying peasants well into the early 1980s—is about a young man who takes pleasure in helping others. Lazzaro lives to serve because he has never known another way; when he’s suddenly freed from his arrangement, he begins to feel trapped. The character’s savant-like goodness doesn’t make him a foil to the forces of exploitation but their instrument. In a decade when filmmakers from all over the world tried to wrestle with the spiritual ravage of late capitalism, Rohrwacher’s vision may have been the most lucid and disturbing of all.

Members of our SPICE Committee will facilitate discussion after each of these three films. Questions for thought will be provided at the beginning of each film.

The Glory of Google

Mondays in March, 4, 11, 18, 25
10:30-12:00pm



In Person Only

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)

Google is a tech giant with many apps you will recognize as well as others that you wish you knew how to utilize. Google apps can do just about all that Microsoft can in productivity but are FREE. We will learn the apps and tricks that work best using our Google applications. We will focus on Chrome searches, photos, the cloud, Google drive, Google translate, and more.

With a Master's degree in Jewish education, **Melanie Waxman** has been in the field of formal and informal education and leadership for over 25 years. Her positions have included Education director, Principal, Family educator, Youth Director, membership and programming as well as curriculum writer/consultant in a myriad of settings including congregations, agencies and camps. As a member of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators (ARJE) for 25 years, she has her Reform Jewish Educator status and earned several grants and honors in the areas of social action, leadership and education. Currently Melanie is the tech knowledge hub concierge at the Edward A Myerberg Center teaching technology to our seniors who would like to learn a little bit more about their smart devices. Melanie resides in Reisterstown and is the proud mother of Jacob Lee and Jonah Ross and wife of Richard.



The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: History of the U.S. Nuclear Deterrent

Thursdays in March, 7, 14, 21, 28
10:30-12:00pm

Hybrid

\$48 (\$60 non-member)

Learn about the US nuclear stockpile from a man who worked in the Nuclear Enterprise for 26 years. Topics to be covered include: its evolution since the Manhattan Project, the nuclear weapons, the delivery system, the governance structure over the stockpile, the role of the US Department of Defense, treaties, test, accidents and near-misses and the challenges, advantages and disadvantages of maintaining the nuclear stockpile.

Richard Caballerro has a Master's in Russian History from Brown University. He has worked at the US Nuclear Security Complex, Los Alamos National Library and the National Nuclear Security Administration. He has taught in many Lifelong Learning institutions throughout his career.



The Jewish History of Baltimore Department Stores: Cathedrals of Consumerism

Mondays in April, 8, 15, 22, 29
10:30-12:00pm

Hybrid

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)



Historically, the birthplace of the department store was in Paris. It started with the Bon Marche, which opened in 1853. Stores in America that adopted the format during the 1870s opened in New York, with Stewart, in Philadelphia with Wanamaker and in Chicago with Marshall Field. Many other stores followed suit. Gimbels, Macy's, I. Magnin, Filene's, Neiman-Marcus, Bloomingdales and Bergdorf-Goodman were all started by immigrant Jewish men and 3 Jewish women.

Here in Baltimore, we all grew up shopping at The Hecht Company, Hochschild Kohn, Brager-Gutman and of course, Hutzlers. These were established and run by Jewish immigrants, as well.

All of these entrepreneurial families not only dominated the fashion and retail scene but made large contributions to the cultural and civic elements of their communities. Learn what caused these men to create these so-called cathedrals of consumerism. Learn how many of them started off as peddlers and became merchant princes.

In this course we will also address the issues of racial integration within these stores as well as the decline of the malls as a result of their flagship stores closing.

Barbara Ressin is a graduate of Towson University who holds a B.S. in education. Barbara's teaching experiences include: 3 years in the Baltimore City School System, 25 years at the Beth Tfiloh Day school in the secular division, adjunct faculty member of the Community College of Baltimore County at the Owings Mills, Essex, and Hunt Valley campuses, adjunct faculty member of Osher Life Long Learning Institute at Towson University, adjunct faculty member of the Renaissance Academy for the Florida Gulf State University, member of the Oasis faculty in Montgomery County under the auspices of The Johns Hopkins University, and instructor in the Food For Thought program and Kaleidoscope at Roland Park School, lecturer for The Lecture Group, Western Howard County Senior Center, Friends of the Pikesville Library, North Oaks Retirement Community, Oakcrest Retirement Community, Roland Park Women's Club, the Renaissance group, SPICE at Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation, and various religious and philanthropic groups around the state.

Never Forget: The Germans and the Holocaust

Thursdays in April, 4, 11, 18, 25

10:30-12:00pm

Zoom Only

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)

Even almost 80 years after the end of World War II, generations of Germans are still grappling with their country's and, in many cases, their own family's horrible legacy of the Nazi dictatorship. Join German historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating discussion of how the German nation has, over the last 8 decades, attempted to cope with the guilt of having caused the Holocaust.

Week 1) A discussion of German Guilt

Week 2) Exploring Holocaust Memorials in Berlin and Germany to determine artistic representations of Guilt

Week 3) Nazi Hunter Fritz Bauer: A heroic story

Week 4) Germany and Israel: a story of guilt and an unlikely friendship



German born and raised **Anette Isaacs, MA**, is a Historian and Public Educator who has been presenting hundreds of programs on more than 40 different topics (all pertaining to her native country's history, politics, and culture) all over the United States. Ms. Isaacs studied at Emory University, the University of Vienna and the Freie Universitaet in Berlin and holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History. During her long career in lifelong learning, Anette served as the Arts & Culture Director at the Mandel JCC of the Palm Beaches, one of the most significant Jewish Community Centers in America. In that capacity she also curated the prestigious Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival. Currently Anette lives in sunny Miami and is the Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Florida International University (FIU).



Guitars and their Music

Wednesdays in May, 1, 8, 15, 22
10:30-12:00pm

Hybrid

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)



It's hard to find an instrument that has had a greater influence on modern western culture than the guitar. They come in an endless variety of shapes and sizes and play a dazzling variety of music. The guitar can be a very simple instrument that anyone can play or it can be a beguilingly difficult instrument that only the finest virtuosos can master. I have been playing, studying and collecting guitars since my bar mitzvah and I can't imagine life without it. What could be nicer than to share some of the music of these extraordinary instruments and the instruments themselves! I promise to examine everything from classical to pop to Jazz to Blues...you get the idea. Show and Tell is also included in this course...Let's face it...You're never too old for Show and Tell.

Jonathan Palevsky is the program director at WBJC bringing Baltimore classical music for our listening pleasure. He has been with the station in a variety of capacities since 1986. Jonathan is originally from Montreal and came to Baltimore in 1982 to study classical guitar at The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. Jonathan's current off-air obsessions include cycling, skiing, playing guitar and hosting Cinema Sundays at the Charles Theatre.

The Plow, The Pistol, and the Prayerbook: Major Trends of Ideology and Spirituality in Jewish Culture

Thursdays in May, 2, 9, 16, 23

10:30-12:00pm

Hybrid

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)

This mini-course will explore three significant threads of the Israeli-Zionist tapestry. These threads intertwine and contain physical, ideological, and spiritual aspects. We will explore these threads using texts, visual examples, and examples from my own family history.

The Plow represents the importance of the land, socialism, and the regeneration of a nation. The Pistol represents the importance of self-defense, the army, and the conquest of the wilderness. The Prayerbook represents the resurrection of the Hebrew, the development of new rituals, new literature, and new prayers.

Rumors say that **Rabbi Ofer Sabath Beit-Halachmi** is a descendent of the biblical King David. Although Ofer doesn't have red hair or any other concrete proof of this lineage, like King David, Rabbi Ofer's creative liturgy has been published and is used widely both in America and in Israel. Rabbi Ofer's and Rabbi Rachel's children all have names connecting them to the Davidic dynasty so the idea of such a lineage is likely to continue in future generations. Ofer is a 4th generation

Israeli who served as an officer in the IDF on every border of Israel and beyond. He earned graduate degrees in Talmud and in Jewish Education. Ordained in Jerusalem at HUC, Ofer served as the rabbi of Congregation Shir-Chadash outside of Jerusalem (Israel) for nearly a decade. Rabbi Ofer co-founded the "Aspaklaria" organization and methodology of using the arts for Jewish education and community building. He has worked with many Israeli artists and curated numerous art exhibits in Israel. Ofer is a beloved teacher in congregations around the world. You can learn more about him and with him on his website: HebrewTrainer.com.



Here Come the Presidential Election Campaigns: Are You Ready?

Mondays in June, 3, 10, 17, 24
10:30-12:00pm

Hybrid

\$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)



The presidential primaries start in January. On the Republican side, there's a cast of characters with big egos and dreams of toppling Donald Trump, then defeating Joe Biden. We will explore what's happening -- in the primaries and in the courts -- the key issues and gaze into our crystal ball to see how things are likely to turn out.

Barry Rascovar has been an influential voice on Maryland politics for four decades with the Baltimore Sun. Today, Barry teaches courses on presidential elections and foreign policy at various local lifelong learning programs. Barry is the author of "The Great Game of Maryland Politics" and "Marylanders of the Century." He holds honorary degrees from both Stevenson and Towson Universities.

Staying Safer Online: New Technologies and How to Protect Yourself

Fridays in June, 7, 14, 21, 28

11:30-1:00pm



Zoom Only \$48 (\$60 non-HSOSC member)

Attending this cybersecurity, privacy, machine learning, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) training class is an opportunity like no other. In today's digital age, the importance of safeguarding sensitive information and mastering the intricacies of cutting-edge technologies cannot be overstated. This comprehensive course is meticulously crafted to equip you with the essential skills and knowledge to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity threats and data privacy challenges. Led by an industry expert, the training will delve into the depths of machine learning and AI, empowering you to harness these revolutionary tools effectively. This class guarantees a dynamic and interactive learning experience. Unravel the complexities of cybersecurity, fortify your understanding of privacy principles, and unlock the limitless potential of machine learning and AI by joining this transformative training class. Your journey in the digital realm starts here. Don't miss this unparalleled opportunity to stay ahead in the fast-paced world of technology.

Tamara Kravitz has over 15 years of experience in adult learning development and over 6 years in cybersecurity and privacy. Currently, Ms. Kravitz is the Senior Cybersecurity and Privacy Training Director at Cybervance Inc, as a contractor for a large government agency. In this role, Ms. Kravitz is responsible for the cybersecurity and privacy training programs' oversight, strategic direction, and leadership. She has developed, designed, and launched a new hire cybersecurity awareness course, which won the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Award of Excellence. Ms. Kravitz also excels in project management utilizing agile collaboration and has experience designing and developing webinars, videos, podcasts, job aids, and instructor-led training. Kravitz holds an MS in Instructional Technology from Towson University and a BA in Film/Video from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). She is also certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP)® and has a wide range of skills and training in various content management systems and e-learning/conferencing tools, as well as graphic design and video editing software. She is currently working on CompTIA Security+ certification.

And now, the Fun Part!

Policies and Registration

All SPICE courses must be registered for and paid for in their entirety.

SPICE fees are per head, not per household, with a 50% off fee for second registrants within the same household.

A minimum of 15 enrollees per course are required in order to hold the course. If a course must be cancelled, those registered will be notified and a SPICE credit will be issued.

Reservations may be made via email to sboxerbell@gmail.com or by telephone to Sherri Bell, SPICE Chair at 410-303-2483.

Payment may be made in one of three ways:

1. Check

Mail it to Sherri Bell

1 Clifton Court

Pikesville, MD 21208

Your check should be made payable to Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation with SPICE and the course name written on the memo line.

2. Credit card

Please note that the synagogue charges a 3.1% credit card use convenience fee.

3. Bill your synagogue account

HSOSC Members only.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our SPICE programs. Your patronage allows us to continue to seek out highly reputed facilitators who are able to continue to bring you a breadth of topics to enhance your lifelong learning goals.

