

Jewish Learning at its Sweetest!



9:00 – 9:30 am	Doors open; Coffee/tea
9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration/class assignments
10:00 – 11:30 am	Welcome; Keynote Presentation
11:30 – 12:10 pm	Lunch Break
12:15 – 1:30 pm	Session A
1:45 – 3:00 pm	Session B

CLASS THEMES IN:

Culture • **Spirit/Soul** • **Music**
International Intrigue • **History**

February 21, 2016, 9:30am - 3pm at the JCC

Welcome to the 13th A Taste of Honey, the Jewish community's annual, stimulating, educational event that offers an opportunity to savor Jewish life at its best. It brings together all of the New Mexico community to explore our understanding of Judaism and the Jewish experience. This year, we've organized the event around five topical areas - culture, history, music, spirit/soul and international intrigue. We are pleased to welcome several new presenters and to welcome back favorite presenters, returning with new topics. We are offering a total of ten carefully curated classes which will last 75 minutes (instead of only 60). We begin with a keynote address by Jewish music historian Steven Ovitsky, who has lived around the US and currently resides in Santa Fe.

10:00-11:30 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Steven Ovitsky



Jewish Composers Who Created the Sound of American Movies

Max Steiner, Franz Waxman, and Erich Wolfgang Korngold were Jewish immigrants from Germany and Austria who created the Hollywood film music style. Their music represents three of the American Film Institute's top 25 film scores of all time. Ovitsky will include scenes from: Steiner's *Gone with the Wind*, *King Kong*, and *Symphony of Six Million*; Waxman's *Bride of Frankenstein* and *Sunset Boulevard*; and Korngold's *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *The Sea Hawk*, *Captain Blood*, and *Kings Row*.

Steven Ovitsky is executive director of the prestigious Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, which brings world-renowned musicians to perform classical and contemporary chamber music in Santa Fe and Albuquerque each summer. He is currently vice president of Chamber Music America. Ovitsky has chaired and served on numerous panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois and the Massachusetts Arts Councils, the American Symphony Orchestra League and others. Ovitsky was the shofar soloist in the Naxos

recording of Hugo Weisgall's *Tekiatot* with Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. Also, he was music director of the Hollywood Theatre of the Ear's Audie Award-winning recordings of *Sweeney Todd*, *String of Pearls*, *The Dybbuk*, and *Saint Joan*. Previously, Ovitsky was president and executive director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, vice president and general manager of the Minnesota Orchestra, as well as artistic director and general manager of the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago.

Session A Classes 12:15-1:30, Please select a 1st and 2nd choice for Session A

Culture

Session A 12:15 - 1:30

A-1: Celebrating Yiddish!

Yiddish stories and sayings will be celebrated by everyone who has ever been touched by *Yiddishkeit* and *mameh loshen*, the Yiddish language. The story of our ancestors bringing their language and culture to America - the institutions they built and the hardships they endured - will provide a context for Yiddish sayings and expressions that have endured for generations. No Yiddish knowledge is required.



Harvey Buchalter has been an active member of the Albuquerque Jewish community since arriving in 1969. He has served as President of Congregation B'nai Israel and director of the Religious School. Harvey has been the director of the Federation Day Camp, and the Chanukah Festival. He has served on many committees and boards throughout the years. He is a sculptor in wood and stone, specializing in Judaica. Harvey is also a certified Yiddish-English translator.

Spirit/Soul

Session A 12:15 - 1:30

A-2: Kabbalah & Zohar: Experiment in Jewish Mystical Prayer

This is an experiential workshop, encouraging participants to try a different approach to traditional prayer. Rabbi Min will introduce background material explaining how to approach a traditional prayer through the lens of Kabbalah. Participants will then have an opportunity to explore that approach. She will lead participants through the short prayer of the *Shma* and/or the *Shechianu*. The class will analyze the initial experience, then delve deeper. These familiar prayers will be understood and experienced in a new, possibly transformative, way.

Rabbi Min Kantrowitz is a fellow of Rabbois Without Borders. She teaches about Crypto-Jews and Conversos of NM for Road Scholars and also has private students.

She directed the NM Jewish Community Chaplaincy Program for 12 years, serving unaffiliated Jews across the state. Rabbi Kantrowitz graduated from the Academy for Jewish Religion. She authored *Counting the Omer: A Kabbalistic Meditation Guide*. Formerly a psychologist and an architect/planner, she is the proud *bubbie* of three grandsons.



Music

Session A 12:15 - 1:30

A-3: It Doesn't Sound Jewish

Jewish music sounds different in different parts of the world. What elements make Jewish music sound Jewish? This class offers an ear-opening experience, especially for those who think all Jewish music sounds like *Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Yiddishe Momme*.



Steven Ovitsky, 2016 Taste of Honey keynoter, is executive director of the prestigious Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, which brings world-renowned musicians to perform classical and contemporary chamber music in Santa Fe and Albuquerque each summer. Ovitsky was the shofar soloist in the Naxos recording of Hugo Weisgall's *Tekiatot* with Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

International Intrigue

Session A 12:15 - 1:30

A-4: Hi Ho* at the Houhai** - Rabbi-ing for Beijing's Ex-Pat Jewish Community

Kehillat Beijing is a progressive, lay-led community of American and international ex-patriots, business people, and travelers. Rabbi Jack has served as visiting rabbi-in-residence for the congregation since High Holidays 2014. In this slide-show/talk, Rabbi Jack shares his experiences interacting with and serving Beijing's Jewish community and some general observations of China.

*Hi Ho – shorthand for High Holidays **Houhai – pronounced 'hoe hi' – a lake in central Beijing.

Rabbi Jack Shlachter, PhD is a full-time physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He also provides rabbinic support to the Los Alamos Jewish Center and HaMakom: the Place for Passionate and Progressive Judaism in Santa Fe. Now that children Dov and Orli have left the nest, Rabbi Jack provides itinerant rabbi-ing for congregations around the globe. For the past two years he has served as visiting High Holiday rabbi at Kehillat Beijing in China (www.sinogogue.org).



History

Session A 12:15 - 1:30

A-5: Spain and the Jews: Then and Now. Should Jews Return to Spain?

For hundreds of years the Jews were persecuted in Spain, including formal expulsion in 1492. Now Spain has offered a path to citizenship for Jews who can prove they are descended from expelled Sephardim. Why is Spain doing this? And why would Sephardic Jews accept the offer? Based on information from Jews who are eligible to return, this lecture puts the story in perspective and attempts to answer these provocative questions.



Norma Libman is a journalist and educator who has been researching Converso and Crypto-Jewish history for over twenty years. She has interviewed more than 50 individuals and families in the Converso community, mostly in New Mexico, and has presented lectures on the subject in numerous synagogues across the nation.

Session B Classes 1:45-3:00, Please select a 1st and 2nd choice for Session B

Culture

Session B 1:45 - 3:00

B-1: Jewish Funeral Traditions on Film

Jewish traditions regarding death, funerals, treatment of the body, burial, cremation, mourning, and annual remembrances are very different from Christian practices. This talk illuminates Jewish funeral traditions before, during, and after a funeral – highly beneficial for interfaith families. Participants will view clips from two comedic films from Mexico: *My Mexican Shiva*, and *Nora's Will*; as well as American movies: *This Is Where I Leave You*, *The Cemetery Club* and *Two Weeks*.



Gail Rubin, CT is a death educator who uses humor and funny films to teach about end-of-life topics. An award-winning speaker, she “knocked ‘em dead” at TEDxABQ in 2015. She’s the author of *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning for Those Who Don’t Plan to Die*, and *Hail and Farewell: Cremation Ceremonies, Templates and Tips*. Gail also serves on the local *Chevrah Kaddisha* and the cemetery committee for Congregation Albert.

Spirit/Soul

Session B 1:45 - 3:00

B-2: The Sabbath – A Different Look At How We Rest

Traditionally we understand that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. For this reason, we tend to think of the Sabbath as the absence of creation. Yet, another interpretation of Genesis 2:2 suggests that God, by establishing *Shabbat* as a day set apart from the rest of the week, actually created rest. Join us as we explore various ways in which the Sabbath can teach us how to create rest and be mindful of the present.

Erin Tarica, LMSW, MAJCS is the Director of the Jewish Care Program at the JCC of Greater Albuquerque. In this role she provides resources, advocacy, emotional and spiritual support to the community. As a lifelong Jewish learner, she loves engaging in discussions about Jewish spirituality and ritual. Erin expresses her creativity through art, being curious, and being present with her two young children.



Music

Session B 1:45 - 3:00

B-3: Jewish Poets of Tin Pan Alley: The Lyricists of the Great American Songbook

The Muldawers will discuss how the lyricist works with the composer to help resolve that old question: ‘Which comes first, the words or the music?’ They will provide biographic information on several Jewish songwriters from 1915-1945, including Berlin and Gershwin. They’ll also perform representative songs of this period.



Michael and Judy Muldawer study and perform songs from the early 20th century, a genre of musical history often referred to as “Tin Pan Alley.” They have discovered fascinating stories pertaining to this musical era, and enjoy relating them to their audience. Michael plays the guitar, Judy plays the ukulele. Both sing and tell these tales with great enthusiasm.

International Intrigue

Session B 1:45 - 3:00

B-4: A Tale of Two Spy Missions

The class will read the Biblical narratives of two missions: Moses’ twelve spies, and Joshua’s two spies, carried out before the children of Israel entered the Promised Land. Participants will then discuss critically what was right and what was wrong in each mission in its various stages: giving the orders, the operations, gathering intelligence and assessing it, making subsequent strategic and tactical recommendations through the normal chain of command. Biblical text will be supplied. Bring your common-sense perspective - no CIA experience required!

Shlomo Kami, PhD is Professor Emeritus at UNM, where he served in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (‘61-‘99) and in the Department of Religious Studies (‘72-‘99). He was Visiting Professor at the University of Hawaii, Tel Aviv University, and the Technion (Haifa). He was also affiliated with Kirtland Air Force Base, and Sandia National Laboratories. He was the founding editor of the *NM Jewish Link*, and among the founding members of Chavurat Hamidbar - “The Fellowship of the Desert.”



History

Session B 1:45 - 3:00

B-5: The ‘American Kindertransport’: A Little-Known Chapter of Jewish History

Winner of the 2015 NM-AZ Book Award for Historic Fiction, Zibart’s book *Forced Journey: The Saga of Werner Berlinger* is the fictional account of a boy who leaves Nazi-held Hamburg in 1939 for New York City. He was one of the 1400 Jewish children from Nazi Europe who found refuge in the US when immigration for Jews was virtually impossible. After the book’s publication, Zibart met a number of these former refugee children, learning their unique stories, some of which she will share.



Rosemary Zibart is a former journalist whose work encompasses plays, screenplays, and books for young people. As an advocate for families with mental illness, she has helped create a series of monologues *Minds Interrupted: Stories of Lives Affected by Mental Illness*. Her books include *True Brit: Beatrice~1940*, about a girl who leaves war-torn England for sunny Santa Fe, and her newest book, *I Have a Grandma Who...*, celebrates passionate grandmothers.

Jewish Learning at its Sweetest!



Register by January 30 for the early-bird price, then come to **A Taste of Honey 2016** to engage in substantive presentations and discussions, gain new perspectives and information! Please register promptly so we can best accommodate all participants' top class choices. Be sure to indicate your first and second choices for both Sessions A and B on the registration form. Please consider contributing above the registration fee to help underwrite this annual New Mexico Jewish community event, and ensure the continuity of this unique, valuable day of **"Jewish Learning at Its Sweetest!"**

For more information contact Phyllis Wolf: phyllisw@jccabq.org, 505.348.4500

A Taste of Honey February 21, 2016 Registration Form

PLEASE RETURN BY JANUARY 30, 2016 for early-bird price. Ticket Prices: \$25/by 1/30/16, \$30/after 2/1/16

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Participant 1: _____ Participant 2: _____

Participant 1 class choices

Session A

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Session B

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Participant 2 class choices

Session A

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Session B

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

LUNCH: Lunches are available for \$10 prepaid for your convenience from the JCC's cafe, Rhubarb & Elliott. Lunches include sandwich or salad, chips & cookie. Other items available at the cafe. Please indicate your choice and quantity.

SANDWICH: _____ Tuna Salad _____ Egg Salad _____ Veggie

SALADS W/ TOPPINGS: _____ Tuna Salad _____ Egg Salad _____ Turkey

Donations to support "A Taste of Honey" _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 \$_____ Other Amount

Total Registration \$_____ + Total Lunches \$_____ + Donation \$_____ = **TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$_____

CREDIT CARD (circle one): Visa Master Card AmEx Disc #: _____ Exp. ____ / ____

Signature of Cardholder: _____ Name on Card: _____

The JCC is a nonprofit 501-c3. Registrations alone don't pay for this event. All donations will be strictly applied to underwrite this event and are fully tax-deductible.

Please include this form with your check, payable to: Jewish Community Center (memo: "ATOH") or pay by credit card using this form and mail or bring to: JCC, 5520 Wyoming Blvd NE, Abq, NM 87109

The JCC is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico