

SPICE up your days at Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

2021 Winter/Spring Course Guide

Social Interaction

Personal Growth

Intellectual Development

Cultural Stimulation

Educational Enrichment



Designed for Adult Interests

The benefits of lifelong learning through our SPICE program are, quite frankly, endless.

Lifelong learners are motivated to learn and develop because they want to: it is a deliberate and voluntary act.

Lifelong learning can enhance our personal understanding of the world around us, provide us with more and better opportunities and improve our quality of life.

Learning for its own sake boosts our confidence and self-esteem, makes us less risk averse and more adaptable to change when it happens, helps us achieve a more satisfying personal life, challenges our ideas and beliefs and can be fun.

Something for Everyone

With topics ranging from political to cultural to spiritual to musical, there is a course for everyone.

Registration is easy, and all are welcome. Please refer to the full complement of classes that follow. We'd love for you to join us!

For the foreseeable future, all SPICE courses will be offered on Zoom from the safety of your homes.

Coming Up:

The Fantastic Interim:
 Part Two

The Diaspora Journey
 of Judaism

Jewish History in 8
 Slices: Slices 1-4

Women in The Bible
 Racism

Jewish History in 8
 Slices: Slices 5-8

Eugenics and
 Anti-Semitism: What
 Do They Have in
 Common with the
 Supreme Court?

Let My Clutter Go

Politics, the Media and
 the People

Broadway is Open!

By George: The Life
 and Music of George
 Gershwin

Docudramas Unite!

20th Century Baltimore

Find Us on the Web:

www.hsosc-baltimore.org

The Fantastic Interim (1918 – 1939): Part Two – from The Rise of Japan to World War II (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Mondays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Part Two will begin with the discussion of Japan's rise to world power status and will continue with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Hitler's rise to power. With Roosevelt came the New Deal and the role of government changed from one of doing almost nothing to one trying to do and expected to do almost everything. With the appointment of Hitler as Chancellor of Germany came the beginning of the road to war. We suffered the worst ecological disaster in our history, the Dust Bowl. And as we recovered economically, we headed to war. Part Two will discuss these events and many others that occurred during the second of these important decades in this country's history – the Fantastic Interim.

Facilitator: [Rex Rehfeld](#) has a B.S. from the University of CA and a J.D. from the University of MD. He has lectured on a variety of historical topics in many Lifelong Learning programs throughout the Baltimore area. Rex served in the Navy in WW II and in the Army during the Korean War and beyond. After leaving the service, Rex served as an investment counselor until his retirement in 2014.

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The Diaspora Journey of Judaism (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

As a Jewish community, we have moved all over the globe at various times in our history. What traditions and customs have we incorporated from different cultures? What “Golden Ages” did our community experience? If we live outside of Israel in today’s world, are we really living in a Diaspora? Join us for an exploration of the journey of the Jewish community from medieval times through the modern day. Study some of the commentaries written by the rabbis of the Talmud and beyond as an insight into the scholarship and movement of the community. Take a journey across time and land as we figure out how Jews came to be in Israel, Europe, South America, North America, and even in space.

Facilitator: [Rabbi Jennifer Weiner](#) is the Interim Senior Rabbi of Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation in Baltimore. Her previous pulpits have been in LA, NY, NV and VA. She has also served as a chaplain in the US Navy and the Prince William Police Department. Rabbi received her second master’s in May 2020 from the Executive MA of Jewish Religion and Leadership Program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In May 2021, Rabbi Weiner will be awarded her D.D. for having served as a rabbi for 25 years.

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Jewish History in 8 Slices: Slices 1-4 (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Throughout the long, storied past of the Jewish people, there have been pivotal events which one might say have changed the direction of Jewish history. Part One of this course will discuss the first four of these 8 important events. They include:

The Babylonian Exile - Making God Portable

The Triumph of the Rabbis - Expanding the Meaning of Torah

The Spanish Expulsion - Who Were the Marranos?

The American Experience - Flourishing in an Open Society

Join us to find out more about these notable times in the history of the Jewish people.

Facilitator: **Rabbi Floyd Herman** is the Rabbi Emeritus of Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation. He served as the Rabbi at Har Sinai Congregation for more than 35 years. He continues his involvement in our newly merged congregation and in the community. He also enjoys golf and food. Rabbi Herman has taught before in our SPICE program on several occasions.

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Women in the Bible (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

This course will delve deeply into the lives and challenges of seven women in the Bible: Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Miriam, Tamar, and Esther. What were their gifts and how were they able to use them? How did they handle the challenges they faced? Most importantly, what can we learn from these women to bring us strength and guidance as we navigate our world. We will uncover lies, seduction, betrayal, unequalled bravery, and intense loyalty all for the purpose of women spanning generations dedicated to the continued existence and future of the Jewish people. Join us to learn about our female heroines and how their abilities to navigate their circumstances serves to steer us in the times we face in our lives today.

Facilitator: **Aviva Janus** holds an MA in Jewish Professional Studies from the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago and a BS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Aviva lived in Israel from 1993-1999 and completed her advanced Torah coursework at The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. Aviva has served in senior positions at both Reform and Conservative Jewish Organizations. Aviva has taught a wide repertoire of Judaic courses to children and adults. Aviva's commitment to diversity in Jewish spaces brings a unique perspective to her classes. Aviva currently serves as the Director of Congregational Learning and Programming at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation.

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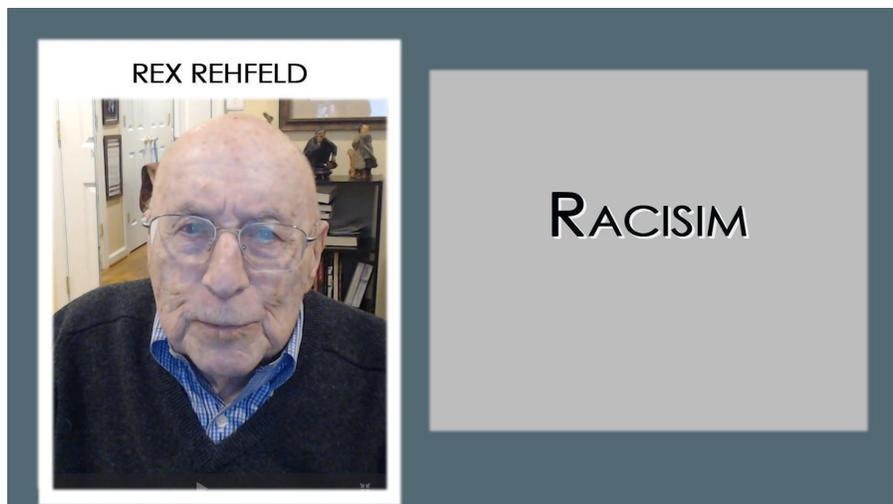
Racism (\$12 temple members/\$15 non-members)

Wednesday, February 17 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Racism has been a part of this country's culture and makeup since it was introduced here by the first colonialists in the early 17th Century. While the term implies that it has to do with race, which is true, the broader definition is not limited to race, but is the belief that humans are subdivided into distinct groups that are different in their social behavior and innate capacities and that can be ranked as superior or inferior. We will talk about the definition, how it was introduced here and how it was practiced. We'll discuss how Jefferson's words, "All men are created equal" were interpreted. We'll look at the Supreme Court decisions that upheld the practice, and later began to at least end legal segregation. And we'll discuss the racism in the Armed Forces. Though tragic, the death of George Floyd had forced most of us to face the issue in a way that many if not most have never had to do.

Facilitator: **Rex Rehfeld** has a B.S. from the University of CA and a J.D. from the University of MD. He has lectured on a variety of historical topics in many Lifelong Learning programs throughout the Baltimore area. Rex served in the Navy in WW II and in the Army during the Korean War and beyond. After leaving the service, Rex served as an investment counselor until his retirement in 2014.

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Jewish History in 8 Slices: Slices 5-8 (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Throughout the long, storied past of the Jewish people, there have been pivotal events which one might say have changed the direction of Jewish history. Part Two of this course will discuss the last four of these 8 important events. They include:

The Enlightenment - Europe Awakens

Zionism - If I Forget Thee O Jerusalem

The Holocaust - The Destruction of European Jewry

Israel - The Triumph and Tragedy of Jewish Power

Join us to find out more about these notable times in the history of the Jewish people.

Facilitator: **Rabbi Floyd Herman** is the Rabbi Emeritus of Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation. He served as the Rabbi at Har Sinai Congregation for more than 35 years. He continues his involvement in our newly merged congregation and in the community. He also enjoys golf and food. Rabbi Herman has taught before in our SPICE program on several occasions.

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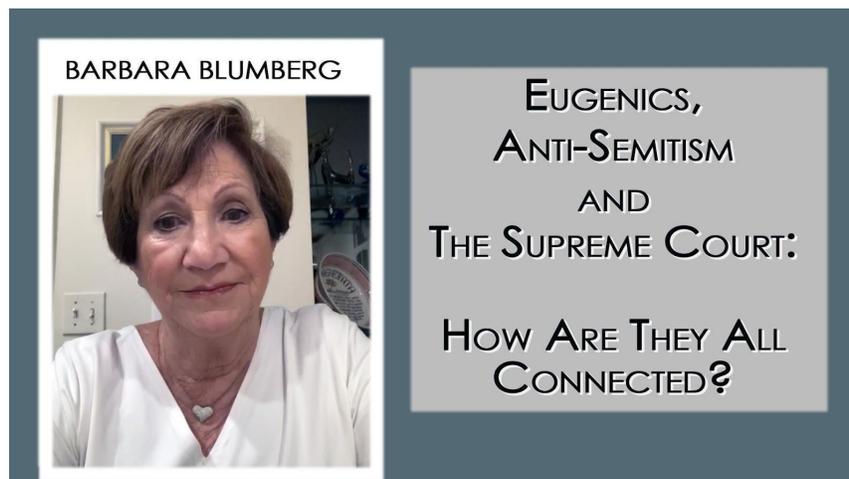
Eugenics and Anti-Semitism: What Do They Have in Common With the Supreme Court? (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Most people aren't aware of the rampant Anti-Semitism that took place in the Supreme Court in the first four decades of the 20th Century. Overt Anti-Semitism, displayed by supposedly learned members of the highest court in the land, would hardly be tolerated in today's society. Eugenics, the practice of select human breeding, was promoted in the late 1800's and the first 50 years of the 20th century in America! A U.S. president, Ivy League Universities and important heads of corporations were all in agreement with this movement. The Immigration Act of 1924, a result of this movement, prevented hundreds of thousands of Jews from entering this country, thus sentencing them to deaths in Nazi Germany. A famous Eugenics case reaches the High Court in 1927. How did the court respond? Also, learn how the Nazis on trial at Nuremburg used the US Eugenics movement as an excuse for what they did to the Jews of Europe!

Facilitator: **Barbara Blumberg** received a BS from Towson University. She has taught in many settings with youth and adults including the Baltimore City School System, Beth Tfiloh Community Day School secular division, CCBC Owings Mills and Hunt Valley, The Meyerberg Center, The Renaissance Academy of Florida Gulf State University, Osher at Towson University, Howard County Community Center, "Food for Thought", SPICE at Har Sinai Congregation, Oasis at Montgomery Mall, Friends of the Pikesville Library, North Oaks, Beth El Synagogue and The Lecture Group.

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Let My Clutter Go (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Mondays, April 5, 12, 19, 26 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Are you ready to muster the courage to get rid of the stuff you don't need? Together, we'll laugh at the lengths we go to and the excuses we use in order to avoid getting organized. And while the fun is happening, each participant will be inspired to get busy as soon as class is over each week to carry out a 'bite sized' decluttering homework assignment. This four-week course will include tips, tricks and strategies to help you downsize, declutter and organize any space in the home.

Facilitator: **Cindy Bernstein**, Professional Organizer and Owner of Aim 4 Order, offers hope and hands-on help to the overwhelmed, untidy and organizationally-challenged. A former teacher, non-profit professional and mother of five, Cindy launched her professional organizing business in 2004 and has worked side by side with clients helping them to tackle their clutter issues, develop user-friendly systems and find lasting order and peace in their homes. Cindy is a member of the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals, teaches classes on Downsizing and Organizing at the Renaissance Institute at Notre Dame, CCBC and Myerberg Senior Center and has appeared on WBAL TV's Sunday morning show as their guest Organizing Expert. She has been featured in numerous publications over the years including the Baltimore Sun, Jewish Times, Baltimore Magazine, The Beacon and Maryland Family Magazine.

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Politics, The Media, and The People (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

This course will provide an objective analysis of the interaction between politicians and the public through both the legacy and the new media in American politics. Topics will include:

- The Unique Nature of American Politics and Media—From Legacy to Social Media
- Making News-What is News?-The President, Congress, Political Candidates and the News
- Consuming News-Who Pays Attention to What?-Becoming a Sophisticated News Consumer
- Evaluating the News-Bias and Fake News
- Regulating the Media
- The Impact of the News Media and its Future

Facilitator: **Stephen Frantzich, PhD**, is Professor Emeritus of political science at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. His areas of specialization are American government and politics and civic education. Frantzich's published works include 17 books, the majority of which deal with the impact of technology on politics. His recent works are: *O.O.P.S. - Observing Our Political Stumbles: The Worst Candidate Gaffes and Recoveries in Presidential Campaigns*.

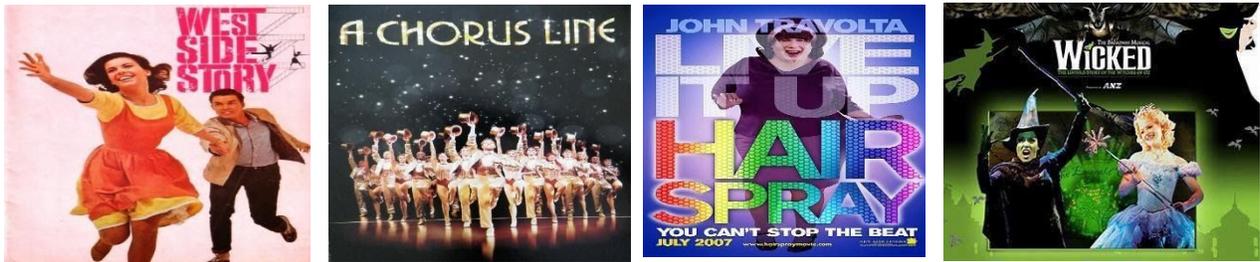
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Broadway is Open! (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Broadway may be closed but it's open and thriving here at SPICE! Ellen Katz, our edutainer extraordinaire, reaches into her treasure trove of fun musicals to bring us West Side Story, A Chorus Line, Hairspray and Wicked. Ellen will broadcast from her Broadway Zoom Room in colorful costumes, singing and telling the stories of these beloved musicals. Don't miss a note!!



Facilitator: [Ellen Katz](#) is an “edutainer” extraordinaire. Her audiences now consist of adults up and down the East Coast. She provides extremely lively and interactive programs. Dressed in costumes that go along with the musical being discussed, Ellen will transport you and make you feel as if you are a part of these iconic musicals.

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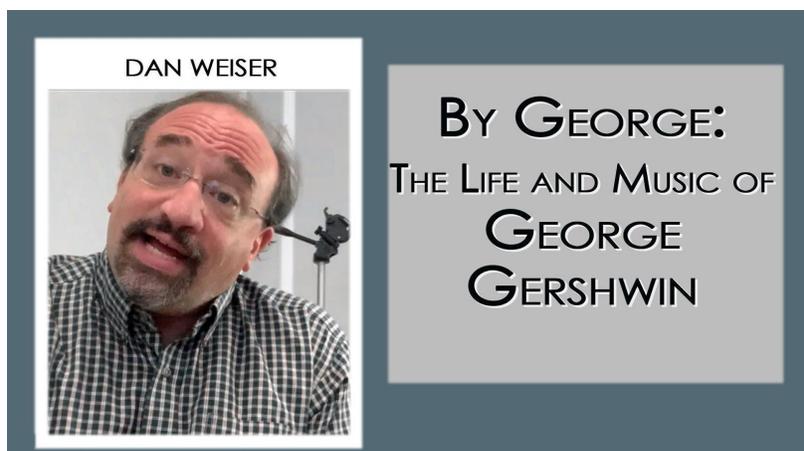
By George: The Life and Music of George Gershwin (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Wednesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Pianist and educator Daniel Weiser will explore the short, but productive life of American's greatest composer. The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Gershwin grew up in the rough, chaotic streets of New York and soaked up the melting pot around him to help formulate the new, brash sound of America. Over four classes, Dr. Weiser will play much of Gershwin's concert music, including "Rhapsody in Blue," "An American in Paris," and his "Preludes." He will also perform many of his iconic songs, most written with his brother Ira, as well as his obscure early opera, "Blue Monday."

Facilitator: **Daniel Weiser** has a Doctorate in Piano/Chamber Music from the Peabody Conservatory, where he won the Richard Franko Goldman prize for outstanding contribution to musical and education life. He has performed on many great stages, including Carnegie Hall and The National Gallery of Art. He has also concertized around the world, including Israel, Thailand, Holland, and France. He has been on the music faculty of Dartmouth College and the St. Paul's School in Concord, NH. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Amici Music. He is also co-founder of Classicopia, a chamber music organization based in New Hampshire and was a founding member of the Adirondack Ensemble. A phi beta kappa graduate of Columbia University with a degree in American History, he also spent a year at Harvard Law School and was a classmate of President Obama.

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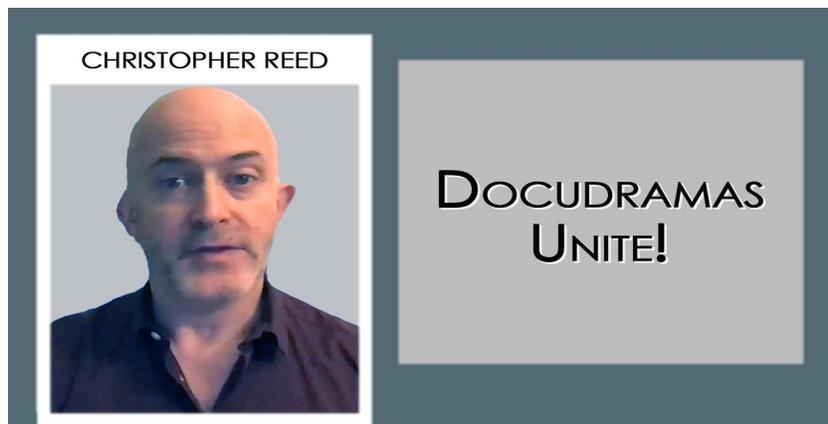
Docudramas Unite! (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Wednesdays, June 2, 16 (10:00 a.m.-noon); **June 9, 23** (10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)

When the cinema was first invented those early works were almost all documentaries. Soon, filmmakers moved to fiction storytelling, with some creating nonfiction products. Since that time, we have seen the form evolve to include such elements as talking-head interviews, lush musical scores, animated graphics and other special effects so that at times, it can be difficult to differentiate the docu from the drama. Let's explore the differences between nonfiction and fiction filmmaking. We will examine two pair of movies, each telling the same story, and see where they unite and diverge: *Grey Gardens* (Maysles, 1975) and *Grey Gardens* (Sucusy, 2009); and *Our Brand Is Crisis* (Boynton, 2005) and *Our Brand Is Crisis* (Green, 2015). Along the way, we will learn about cinematography, editing and other tools of the trade. Join me for a robust discussion of the world's great "Seventh Art."

Facilitator: **Christopher Reed** is a film critic, filmmaker and educator, currently Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Film and Moving Image at Stevenson University. A member of the DC Area Film Critics Association and a Rotten Tomatoes-approved film critic, he is lead film critic at *Hammer to Nail* and *Film Festival Today*, co-host of *The Fog of Truth*, a podcast devoted to documentary cinema, and the author of *Film Editing: Theory and Practice*. Chris holds a B.A. from Harvard in Slavic Languages and Literatures (concentration in Russian), an M.A from Yale in Russian and East European Studies (concentration in Russian Film), and an M.F.A. from the Graduate Film Program at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

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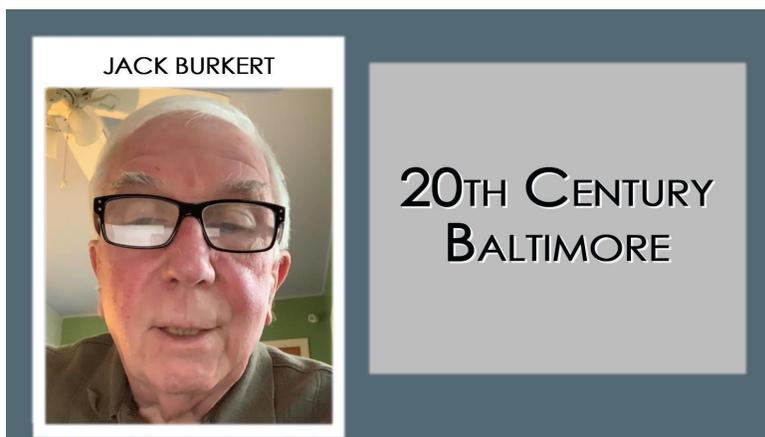
20th Century Baltimore (\$48 temple members/\$60 non-members)

Thursdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24 (10:30 a.m.-noon)

Each week that we meet we will focus on a different time during the 1900 in Baltimore. In the first session we will learn about the time that spans the earliest days of the century through and including the Roaring 20s. In the second session we will learn about The Golden Age of Radio and take a quick survey of the 1930s during The Great Depression. In the third session we will discuss Baltimore during the War Years. In the fourth and final session we will learn about Baltimore during the mid-century.

Facilitator: **Jack Burkert** is a Baltimore native who, in retirement, has used his energy and interest in all things Baltimore to create a number of educational programs. Jack also works part time as an educator at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. A 1969 graduate of the University of Maryland, Jack graduated with honors with a degree in history and education. His working life, some 40+ years, was spent in various educator roles, beginning with five years in the Baltimore City School system, later at the Pennsylvania State University, through private employers in Washington and New York City, and until his retirement a few years ago, in his own consulting firm. Returning to his home town, Jack's interest in history led to a number of programs and information about Baltimore that inform and entertain both adults and young people. Jack has made a specialty of adding content and background to his work through research into the history of Baltimore, its port, businesses, people and immigration.

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SPICE Policies:

- All SPICE courses must be registered for and paid for in their entirety.
- All SPICE courses for January-June 2021 will be presented on Zoom.
- 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 class are required.

Registration Information:

- Reservations may be made via email to sboxerbelle@gmail.com or by telephone to Sherri Bell, SPICE Chair at 410-833-2409.
- Payment may be made in one of three ways:
 - A check may be mailed 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
 - You may use a credit card. Please note that the synagogue charges a 3.1% credit card use convenience fee.
 - You may have the course fee billed to your synagogue account if you are a member.
- 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.