

Homeland for the Jewish Soul: The Jewish Deli in America

Dr. Ted Merwin

SUNDAY | DEC. 6 | 10:45 AM



In Chicago, New York, L.A., and other American cities, the delicatessen was the lifeblood and the linchpin of the Jewish community. The "soul food" and atmosphere it dished up became a quintessential part of American culture for Jews and non-Jews alike. But as Jews moved into the suburban middle class, the deli lost its bite, giving way to other ethnic restaurants and cuisines. Can the deli be resurrected?

Dr. Merwin will show how the deli, which originated in Germany and Eastern Europe, developed in this country into a neighborhood institution on par with the synagogue. He will also discuss how the deli became an icon of TV shows and films about the Jewish experience, ranging from John Belushi's "Samurai Deli" on SNL to Rob Reiner's *When Harry Met Sally*.

Rock N Roll Jews

"Radio Dave" Milberg

SUNDAY | DEC. 13 | 10:45 AM



Join Temple Sholom member "Radio Dave" Milberg, a disc jockey-at-law, broadcasting since 1965, lawyering since 1979 as he discusses how the rock and roll family tree has Jews at its roots, trunk and branches. Disc jockeys, singers, songwriters, musicians, record company executives and even mobsters, who planted its seeds and nurtured it to become the dominant music in America over the past seven decades. Radio Dave will morph into his DJ persona to spotlight seven decades of selected Jews who rocked an those whose cultural impacts went beyond their music. His presentation will include photos of famed "Rock n Roll Jews" along with soundbites of their songs.

Embracing Racial Diversity

Marra Gad

FRIDAY | DEC. 18 | 6:15 PM



Marra Gad's new memoir, "The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl," is the multilayered story of her life as a biracial Jew. Originally from Chicago, Gad is now a Los Angeles-based television and film producer. She remains devoted to Judaism despite the racism and rejections has often encountered in Jewish spaces.

Israel is Way Too Important to be Left Only to Israelis

Israel-Diaspora Relations Before, During and After Covid-19

Co-sponsored by Women of Temple Sholom

Anat Hoffman

SUNDAY | JAN. 17 | 10:45 AM



The land of Israel is the home of the Jewish people, not only those who live there, but to all Jews around the world. To maintain a healthy communal relationship, all Jews need to be seen as equals and feel like active members of that community.

Israel-Diaspora relations have recently been one of the main topics of discussion in Israeli society. The growing rift between world Jewry and Israel's politics and policies, and the dependence on funding from abroad of many social projects are central to this argument. However, with the unprecedented health and economic crisis caused by Covid-19 knocking on most families' doors, it is urgent for all Jews to stand together to maintain our big and vibrant community. Anat provides an historical overview of Israel-Diaspora relations, where things currently stand, and challenges and opportunities for the future.

Justice & Education

Co-sponsored by *Sholom Justice*

Randi Weingarten

SUNDAY | JAN. 24 | 10:45 AM



Randi Weingarten is the president of the 1.7 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel. She holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. She worked as a lawyer for the Wall Street firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan from 1983 to 1986. She is an active member of the Democratic National Committee and numerous professional, civic and philanthropic organizations. Born in 1957 and raised in Rockland County, N.Y., Weingarten now resides on Long Island and in Washington, D.C.

Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Rabbi Rachel S. Mikva, Ph.D.

SUNDAY | JAN. 31 | 10:45 AM



Rabbi Mikva is the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair & Professor of Jewish Studies at the Chicago Theological Seminary. She earned a M.A. and rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and a PhD from Jewish Theological Seminary. She generally introduces herself as a rabbi and professor who works at the intersections of sacred texts, culture, and ethics.

Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

Judith Heumann

FRIDAY | FEB. 5 | 6:15 PM



Judy Heumann is an American disability rights activist. She is recognized internationally as a leader in the disability community. Heumann is a lifelong civil rights advocate for people with disabilities. She graduated from Long Island University and taught in the New York City Public Schools. Her book, *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*, was published in February 2020. It tells her personal story of fighting for the right to receive an education, have a job, and "just be human."

Tales of the Holy Mysticat

Rabbi Rachel Adler

SUNDAY | FEB. 7 | 10:45 AM



Tales of the Holy Mysticat is an engaging guide to Jewish literacy, based on Rachel's series of online posts about her most peculiar cat. A collection of whimsical stories interspersed with cleverly drawn black-and-white illustrations, it provides unique insights into Jewish texts and traditions by one of our most profoundly creative scholars. Just what we need in these trying times!

Jewish and Democratic: Threats and Challenges to Israel's Democracy

Co-sponsored by Women of Temple Shalom

Rabbi Noa Sattath

SUNDAY | FEB. 28 | 3:00 PM



During this session, Rabbi Sattath will scrutinize the different threats and challenges to Israel's democracy. One of them, the Supreme Court Override Bill, could remove all power from the Supreme Court. While the Knesset is not fully functional, this can open a Pandora's box for extremist behaviors and indoctrination. Rabbi Sattath will help us understand where seemingly harmless actions can lead and what can be done about them. Co-sponsored with Women of Temple Shalom.

Solitude Then and Now

Tzivia Garfinkel

SUNDAY | FEB. 28 | 10:45 AM



Is "One the loneliest number" as the song says? What can we learn about solitude as described in classic Jewish texts, ancient and modern? We'll read a variety of passages that will expand our understanding in this ongoing season of solitude.

Healing Your Brain After Loss: A Neurologist's Perspective

Dr. Lisa M. Shulman

SUNDAY | MAR. 7 | 9:30 AM



Loss is often described as "heartbreaking," but how is the brain involved? Join Dr. Lisa M. Shulman, Professor of Neurology at the University of Maryland and author of "*Before and After Loss: A Neurologist's Perspective on Loss, Grief, and Our Brain*" to learn how healing is linked to understanding how the brain is affected by the emotional trauma of loss. Dr. Shulman's research and experience will be helpful to anyone managing the loss of a loved one as well as many other forms of loss. Action steps including journaling, dream work and spiritual practices.