

For more info about
holiday celebrations at the JCC
visit [jccmanhattan.org/
holidays](http://jccmanhattan.org/holidays)

To register or for a complete
listing of JCC programs

visit jccmanhattan.org
or call **646.505.5708**

the **jcc** in manhattan

the samuel priest rose building
334 amsterdam ave at 76th st
new york, ny 10023

a beneficiary of UJA-Federation

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winter/
spring
2012

shabbat

purim

passover

yom hashoah

yom ha'atzmaut

shavuot

shabbat + holidays

the jcc in manhattan | schedule of programs

10 YEARS *and Counting!*

*It's The JCC in Manhattan's 10th Anniversary on 76th and Amsterdam!
The JCC is proud to be a home to families and individuals of all walks of life—
fostering an inclusive, engaged community rooted in Jewish values.*

Come celebrate with us!



10 YEARS
building community



From January through April (Tevet through Nissan on the Jewish calendar), there are many important dates. Some are joyous, others solemn. Here at the JCC, we live by both the secular and Jewish calendars and hope you will join us to celebrate and commemorate. Since Jewish holidays begin at sundown, the secular dates listed reflect the daytime occurrence of the holiday which began the previous evening.

shabbat

THE SABBATH

The ancient rabbis expressed their great reverence for the Sabbath by claiming that “More than the Jews have kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jews.” Whether or not we believe this to be literally true, it is certainly true that a weekly day of rest is a Jewish gift to the world enshrined in the biblical story of creation. And thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor and foundation funding, the JCC is able to give the gift of Shabbat to the community.



R&R: Shabbat at the JCC is an antidote to our 24/7 lifestyle, a day to step out of the frantic pace of everyday life. Join us Saturdays, 2-5 pm, from November 5–March 24, for programs that respect all levels of observance. Come in from the ordinary and experience Shabbat. It's an ancient solution to a modern dilemma; so priceless we've made it free.

SHABBAT PROGRAMS

Shabbat Shabbang: Friday Night Dinners at the JCC

Given the success of our Friday night dinner series last year—and thanks also to the generosity of a donor—we have expanded the series. Each Shabbat Shabbang features Friday night rituals, a delightful kosher dinner catered by Simply Divine, a choice of programs—something for every member of the community—young or old, families or singles, secular or religious, at any level of observance, vegetarian or omnivorous—\$18 per person! (And of course our Shabbat elevator will be in use). Visit jccmanhattan.org/shabbat for information on each of the Shabbat Shabbang evenings this year:

Oct 14, Nov 18, Dec 23, Jan 20, Feb 3, Mar 30, Apr 27, May 18, Jun 15

Deepen Jewish Ties with Havurah

For Children in Grades K-3

Havurah is an excellent way to nurture the early years of your child's Jewish education in a fun, interactive, and meaningful environment that allows children to learn, play, and grow. At Havurah, we help children make even stronger connections with old friends and generate new relationships as they continue to develop their Jewish identity through a wide array of social learning experiences. Havurah meets weekly from 3-5 pm on Shabbat afternoons, from Oct 15-May 19. For more information visit us on the web or contact **Jacqueline Marks** at jmarks@jccmanhattan.org.

Challah Baking for Shabbat

Join us in this ancient Jewish tradition as we knead, braid, and bake our way through the spiritual side of challah baking with **Joan Richter**.

Fri, Jan 20, 10 am-1 pm;
Fri, Mar 30, 10 am-1 pm,
\$20/\$25 each session

Shabbat around the World

Get a taste for how Shabbat is celebrated around the world as you create a delicious meal featuring international cuisine with **Shaya Klechevsky**.

Thu, Jan 26, 7-9:30 pm, \$85/\$95

Infants + Toddlers Shabbat Dinners

Appetizers and cocktails, followed by an interactive song session, Shabbat rituals, and a kosher dinner. All levels of observance; grandparents and extended family members welcome! *Pre-registration required. Strollers must remain in the lobby.*

4 Fridays, Feb 10, Mar 16, May 4, Jun 8, 5:30-7:30 pm, \$18 per person over 24 months; children under 2 free

40's + 50's Shabbat Dinner

End the week with a relaxing Shabbat meal at the JCC featuring delicious food, wine, engaging conversation, and good company. *Register by February 15. No walk-ins.*

Fri, Feb 17, 7 pm, \$30/\$35

Celebrate Havdallah with Prayerful Dance

Learn prayerdance movements to prepare for free style dancing, inspired by spiritually elevating Havdallah prayer music, meditative and ecstatic, with **Rabbi Neal Kaunfer**.

Sat, Mar 24, 8:30-10:30 pm, \$10/\$12

Authentic Venetian Shabbat Dinner

Join **Alessandra Rovati** as she teaches you to create favorite dishes from her native Venice, Italy.

Thu, Mar 29, 7-9:30 pm, \$85/\$95

Healthy + Delicious Dairy-Free Shabbat Desserts

Explore creative ways to satisfy your sweet tooth with desserts that are both dairy-free and without processed sugars, but full of great flavor. With **Jennifer Abadi**.

Fri, Apr 27, 10 am-1 pm, \$85/\$95



purim

14 Adar/March 7 & 8

Purim is the Jewish version of Mardi Gras/Carnavale. It shares with such festivals around the world at this time of year an unbridled quality of celebration, costumes, parades, food, and drink. It must be something about the season since spring is in the air. Unlike Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot, which are prescribed in the Torah (along with Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur), Purim is based upon the biblical book of Esther that is not part of the Five Books of Moses. The book is also called the *Megillah* (literally a scroll but a special one since its reading is central to the holiday) and it celebrates the rescue of the Jews of Persia by Queen Esther and her uncle Mordecai, who thwart a plot by Haman, courtier to the Persian King. While the book includes most elements of the holiday—merrymaking, feasting, sending gifts to friends (typically of food, including *hamantaschen*), and presents to the poor, Purim was not on the Jewish calendar until the ancient rabbis added it. Scholars assume Jews were already observing Purim and it would have been difficult to oppose a holiday that celebrates a Jewish victory over an enemy and includes so many ways to celebrate! The *Megillah* is read on the eve of Purim and the next morning with great enthusiasm and with noisemakers to drown out the name of the dreaded Haman. Enjoy!



Yoga for the Jewish Spirit with Shelley Levine

Connect body, breath, and heart to the spiritual dimension of the Jewish calendar—Tu B'Shevat, Purim, and Passover. *All are welcome. Wear loose clothing.*

3 Thursdays, Feb 16, Mar 15, Apr 19, 7:15-8:30 pm

A Pre-Purim Program for Women

Discover how to access your inner beauty! A multi-dimensional creative experience for women of all ages and stages. *Light food included.*

Thu, Mar 1, 6-9 pm, \$18 for all

Purim Family Carnival

Enjoy exotic animals, a petting zoo, games, obstacle courses, face painting, live music, and more. Game and food tickets available for purchase at the door. *Children with special needs and their families are welcome to come at 2 pm or to enjoy the Carnival from 1-2 pm, prior to the public opening time. Sponsored by Camp Modin.*

Sun, Mar 4, 2-5 pm, Free

GPAC Meeting: Health and Fitness for the Single Parent + A Purim Party!

First focus on self-care; then join the kids for our annual Purim parade and goodies!

Mon, Mar 5, 6 pm drop-off; 6:30 pm parent meeting, \$10 per family



passover

14-22 Nissan/April 7-14; first seder, April 6

Pesach was the critically important spring harvest festival in ancient times which is called *Hag Aviv* (literally, the spring holiday) in some places of the Torah. While the seder plate references the spring season with parsley and an egg, the holiday has become the quintessential celebration of liberation. The story of deliverance from slavery that we read in the *haggadah* has been a central theme in Jewish tradition and a source of inspiration for other peoples seeking freedom. For Jews, it also represents our emergence as a people destined for a homeland. And while food is an important part of Jewish celebrations, it becomes a veritable obsession before and during Passover, given the very complicated dietary rules and regulations associated (ironically?) with this holiday of liberation!



Medieval Haggadot for a Contemporary Passover

An evening with **Marc Michael Epstein**, author of *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative and Religious Imagination*, at the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary where you'll also see haggadot from their renowned collection.

Thu, Mar 15, 7 pm, \$15/\$20

Mouth Watering Make-Ahead Seder with Jennifer Abadi

Enjoy learning how to make fabulous dishes to make this night easier than all other nights with recipes you can prepare weeks ahead and store in your freezer.

Mon, Mar, 19, 7-9:30 pm, \$85/\$95

Empty Chair at the Seder: A Night of Remembrance and Renewal

Join other bereaved Jews as we find meaning and comfort together. Please RSVP to **Kristen Smith** at 212.632.4608. Co-sponsored by The Shira Rusky Center of JBFC.

Tue, Mar 20, 6:30-8 pm, Free

Delectable Parve Passover Desserts + Confections

Chef **Jennifer Abadi** will teach you how to create parve Passover desserts that are so good, you will want to prepare them all year round!

Fri, Mar 23, 10 am-12:30 pm, \$85/\$95

Gefilte Fish Workshop with Liz Galst

Join green blogger and author **Liz Galst** to learn the essentials of gefilte fish preparation using a sustainably-sourced recipe that will wow your friends and family.

Sun, Mar 25, noon-3 pm, \$95/\$105

Artist-in-Residence in Conversation

Rabbi Joy Levitt interviews artist-in-residence **Daniel Bernard Roumain** (known as DBR), a Haitian-American composer, performer, violinist, and band leader who melds his classical music roots with his own cultural references and vibrant musical imagination. While at the JCC, he will create a musical version of the haggadah. Enjoy piano and voice excerpts from this work, *A Night of Questions*.

Sun, Mar 25, 3 pm, Free

Haggada-thon: A "Spirited" Pre-Passover Experience!

Learn about different haggadahs, taste samples of seder foods, see beautiful ritual objects, and learn how to prepare spiritually for the seder. Co-sponsored by *Jlinsider.com*.

Sun, Mar 25, 10 am-1 pm, Free

Italian-Jewish Dishes for a Delicious Passover

Alessandra Rovati, a native of Venice, demonstrates the preparation of dishes that will transform your Passover menus and delight your guests. Enjoy samples!

Mon, Mar 26, 7 pm, \$20/\$25

A Night of Questions: A Musical Haggadah

A musical setting of Rabbis Joy Levitt and Michael Strassfeld's haggadah, scored for 31-piece concert band, violin, singer, boom box, iPhone, toy piano, coffee pot, and rabbi. Don't miss the culmination of DBR's JCC residency.

Sat, Mar 31, 8 pm & Sun, Apr 1, 3 pm, \$20/\$25 per performance

Passover Celebration for Children with Special Needs + Their Families

Join us to participate in fun and educational programs to celebrate Passover in a special needs-friendly environment.

Sun, Apr 1, 11:30 am-1 pm, Free

Preparing the Soul for Pesach with Rabbi Yoel Glick

Spend an evening with this amazing spiritual teacher who is visiting from Israel.

Date TBA, 7 pm, \$15 for all

yom hashoah

WE REMEMBER

27 Nissan/April 18/19



Photo: Randi L. Klein

After we celebrate the liberation of Israel from bondage in Egypt and just before we celebrate the founding of the state of Israel, we remember the darkest days of Jewish history. On Holocaust Memorial Day we remember the six million Jews who perished during the Shoah. For the 13th consecutive year, the Upper West Side community will gather to read names of those among the six million. The reading will begin on Wednesday, April 18 at 10 pm at Congregation Habonim, 44 West 66th Street (between Central Park West and Columbus), and continue throughout the night with members of Upper West Side congregations and others from the community. The reading resumes at 9 am on Thursday, April 19 at the JCC, and ends at 6 pm with the recitation of Kaddish. Come read or witness by your presence. *No registration.*

Wed, Apr 18, 10 pm–Thu, Apr 19, 6 pm, Free

The JCC Film Department will present **Saviors on the Screen**, a series of films devoted to acts of heroism by Jews and non-Jews alike, on the evenings of April 18 & 19.

For details, see jccmanhattan.org/film.

yom ha'atzmaut

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

5 Iyar/April 26

The Israeli national holiday is also celebrated throughout the diaspora on the 5th of Iyar on the Hebrew calendar, commemorating the declaration of independence which was announced by David Ben-Gurion on May 14, 1948, establishing the new State of Israel in what had been the British mandate of Palestine since World War I, and in ancient times, the biblical land of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. According to Israeli custom, the holiday will not be celebrated on Friday, April 27, which is the 5th of Iyar in 5772, but the day before—April 26th, the 4th of Iyar—so as not to interfere with preparations on Friday for Shabbat. This change of date, which can also affect Yom HaShoah, only occurs with these “modern” holidays, while the ancient ones are observed on whatever day of the week they occur according to the Hebrew calendar. It’s an interesting example of the ways in which the secular and religious are navigated in the State of Israel!

Taste of Israel

with Jennifer Abadi

Celebrate Israeli Independence Day by preparing felafel, chatzilim, hummus, rotev tahini, kishooim, pil-pi'lim, salat gezer, salat turkie, tabooli, and sh'tiyah.

Thu, Apr 19, 7–9:30 pm, \$85/\$95

Israel in Short

Israel is a small country with many faces and a thriving film industry. Join us for the sixth annual view of Israel through the lenses of internationally acclaimed short films.

Tue, Apr 26, 7:30 pm, \$9/\$11



Photo: Randi L. Klein

shavuot

6 & 7 Sivan/May 27 & 28

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Just 49 days after Passover (the period known as the Sefira or the Counting of the Omer), the JCC will present its ninth Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the Upper West Side's most spectacular holiday celebration—an updated version of the ancient festival of Shavuot, when the ancient Israelites stayed awake all night at Sinai anticipating the revelation. Shavuot, coming so soon after Passover and lasting only two days, has tended to be the less known of the three festivals or *haggim* (the fall festival of Sukkot being the third). But the JCC's Tikkun has certainly created a buzz around Shavuot! Join more than 2,000 others for study, film, music, dance, yoga, meditation, cheesecake, and more, throughout the building, throughout the night, and into the early morning. Come for an hour or seven! You'll hear much more about this as the holiday approaches.

The Tikkun Leil Shavuot is generously supported in memory of Paul Feig. Additional funding provided by UJA-Federation.

Sat, May 26, 10 pm–Sun, May 27, 5 am, Free