

### FALL 2012 Semester Begins Wednesday, October 17!

Classes this semester will be held at:
The National Museum of American Military History (Tuesdays)
Adas Israel Congregation (Wednesdays)
Hill Center (Thursdays)

JSC Tuesdays at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History 1811 R St NW DC (near Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line) Classes begin 7 P.M.

Contemporary Midrash—Oct. 23
Non-dual Judaism Through Liturgy—Oct. 23
Klezmer Music and Dance—Oct. 23 (begins 6:30 P.M.)
Jewish-American Experience in Hollywood Film—Oct. 30
Liberalism and the Jews—Nov. 13
American Jewish Military History—Dec. 18

JSC Wednesdays at Adas Israel Congregation 2850 Quebec Street NW DC (near Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line) Classes: 7 P.M. and 8:15 P.M.



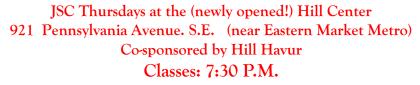
Jewish History through Personal Stories (Oct. 17) Jewish Economics (Oct. 17)

Unpacking Torah (Oct. 17)

Faith and Foxholes (Oct. 30)

Jewish American Writers: Famous and Not So Famous (Nov. 7) Jews of Azerbaijan (Nov. 7)

First Jews in New York (Nov. 28)



Jewish Holidays through the Year-Oct. 18 Challah-baking-Nov. 1

Register for all our courses at www.jewishstudycenter.org

Email: info@jewishstudycenter.org Phone: 202-332-1221

# Tuesday nights at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History 1811 R Street, NW—(1 block NE of Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line) (Co-sponsored with the Museum)

### **Contemporary Midrash**

Tuesdays October 23, Nov. 13, 20, 27—7:00-8:15 P.M. Instructors: Carolivia Herron and Jessica Weissman

The ancient tradition of midrash, stories that extend or elaborate Biblical texts, allows us to examine the complex implications of traditional stories through reimagining our human responses to significant events. Our course will allow us to investigate and create compelling midrash. We will examine contemporary midrashim from such authors as Julius Lester's *When the Beginning Began* and Timothy Findlay's *Not Wanted on the Voyage* and shall also discuss non-traditional midrash in video and dance. Please bring one of your favorite midrashim to the first session. *Jessica Weissman* is a poet and software developer who heard her first midrash from her grandfather and has been hooked on stories of all kinds ever since. *Carolivia Herron* is a novelist, children's book author and scholar of comparative literature. Her current novel, *Asenath and Our Song of Songs*, is an extended midrash on the Joseph story in Genesis.

JSC, JWV, Museum members \$55; Non-members \$75

### Non-Dual Judaism Through Liturgy

Tuesdays Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Dec. 19—7:00-8:15 P.M.

Instructor: Ira Zukerman

As the introductory morning service, *Psukei D'Zimra*, reminds us, G-d is not simply the One who *gives* life to the universe, but the One who *is* the life of the universe. From this "non-dual" perspective, G-d is seen not as a being but as a process, and what is divine is the eternal heartbeat of the universe and all it contains. We will use meditation to help recognize the doorway our Jewish service opens and the text as the legs to help move us through the doorway. Readings will include Arnold Rosenberg's *Jewish Liturgy as a Spiritual System*, Philip Richman's *The Shofar and The White Conch*, and Jay Michaelson's *Everything is G-d: The Radical Path of Nondual Judaism*.

In between sessions we hope that class members will review the three texts and visit together or on their own some of the different communities in the DC metropolitan area that in some way endeavor to integrate or include meditation with Jewish practice. *Ira Zukerman*, a frequent teacher and student at the Jewish Study Center, has engaged in mindfulness, awareness, and non-dual study and practice as well as Jewish practice for 30-plus years. He attends Shirat HaNefesh in Chevy Chase, MD.

JSC, JWV, Museum members \$40; Non-members \$55.

### **Klezmer Music and Dance**

**Tuesday** October 23—6:30-8:30 P.M.

**Instructor: Jay McCrensky** 

This two hour class is a lecture, demo and dance party in one. The participants will learn what makes klezmer music Jewish, what to listen for, the style of playing, the dynamics of the rhythm and counterparts, and the genres and modes. Then, in the second hour, we'll dance, dance under the leadership of Dr. McCrensky. The students will learn how to authentically lead klezmer dancing as well as basic steps and style. Finally, we'll have lots of fun! Musicians, bring your instruments for a possible jam session following the class. *Jay McCrensky* is leader, accordionist and bassist of nationally acclaimed Machaya Klezmer Band and originator of "Klezmer Dance." Dr. McCrensky holds a PhD in Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University and Towson University and is a visiting professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland where this lecture/demo became the highlight of the Introduction to Judaism course.

Part I and II: JSC, JWV, Museum members \$25; Non-members \$35 One part only: JSC, JWV, Museum members \$15; Non-members \$20

### Tuesday nights at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History

1811 R Street, NW—(1 block NE of Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line)
(Co-sponsored with the Museum)

### Jewish-American Experience in Hollywood Film (1927-2009)

Film by Buddy Timberg, followed by panel discussion.

Moderator: Susan Barocas Tuesday Panel: Aviva Kempner, Jeff Krulik, and others Oct. 30 7:00-8:30 P.M.



This showing of the 25-minute documentary (a work that was still in progress at his death two years ago) by Buddy Timberg z''l about how Jews have been portrayed in film from the early sound era through the modern era in Hollywood movies including clips from "The Jazz Singer" (1927) to "Knocked Up" (2009) will be followed by a panel discussion.

JSC, JWV, Museum members \$15; Non-members \$20

American Jews and Liberalism: Myth or Reality?
Tuesdays Nov. 13, 27 7:00-8:15 P.M.

Instructor: Jason Schulman

In a 2009 book, Norman Podhoretz, one of the original "neoconservatives" who served as the editor of *Commentary* magazine from 1960 to 1995, asked, "Why are Jews liberal?" We will seeks to answer that question, and another: Are Jews really that liberal? In this two-session class, we will investigate how politicians, community leaders, and scholars have explained the political commitment of American Jews to liberalism, and then we will go further to question their premises. We will consider alternate voices within the American Jewish past to ask whether Jewish liberalism is as self-evident as many think. *Jason Schulman* is a doctoral student at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, where he is a fellow with the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies.

JSC, JWV, Museum members \$30; Non-members \$40

### Jews in the American Military—A Lightning Introduction

**Tuesday December 18 7:00-8:15 P.M.** 

**Instructor: Michael Bloom** 

In addition to surveying the participation of U.S. Jews in all of America's wars we will cover how Passover and other holidays were celebrated in trying circumstances (including Robert E. Lee's correspondence with the Richmond congregation regarding the High Holidays), the development of the military prayerbook and the Jewish chaplaincy, opportunites for Jewish religious expression at the Pentagon and more. Books, photos, and possibly film will supplement this talk. *Michael Bloom*, the son of an Air Force lieutenant colonel, is a chaplain and Judge Advocate with the Jewish War Veterans, and has served as a guest cantor/Torah reader at Ft. Belvoir, Andrews Air Force Base, and the Pentagon—where he also offered a d'var Torah in re-celebration of his bar mitzvah. He has taught many Study Center courses.

JSC, JWV, Museum members \$15; Non-members \$20

Register for all our courses at www.jewishstudycenter.org

Email: <u>info@jewishstudycenter.org</u> Phone: 202-332-1221

2850 Quebec St NW—(1 block from Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line) (Co-sponsored with Adas Israel Congregation)

### **Centropa's Rescued Memories:**A Digital Bridge to a World Destroyed

Wednesdays – October 17, 31, November 7, 14 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Though the Jewish world of Eastern Europe is gone, *Centropa* – a Jewish historical institute based in Vienna - brings it back to life using new technologies to tell how Jews fell in love, where they worked, where they went on vacation and how they survived the horrors. Centropa interviewed 1,200 Holocaust survivors still living in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and the Balkans – they never used video; rather, the survivors shared their life stories as they showed their family photographs. And this means Centropa's stories, as told through multimedia films, are more about how Jews lived than how they suffered or died. Come learn 20<sup>th</sup> century Jewish history through 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies - and tell your own family stories using Centropa's innovative techniques!





#### October 17 - Mitteleuropa: Stories from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Cynthia Peterman will discuss Jewish loyalty to Emperor Franz Joseph and you'll meet Patriot Heinrich Nussbaum. When the empire collapsed and Europe divided, Heinrich refused to believe in borders and sent his sons to universities in Prague, Berlin, Paris and Florence. And Ernst Galpert will tell you about growing up Orthodox in Munkacs.

October 31 - Sephardim in the Balkans – Laura Shaw will teach how Jews lived with their Balkan neighbors for centuries and share Matilda and Breda Kalef's story of how a brave Catholic priest in Belgrade saved them. And we'll see how Jews, along with their Muslim, Serb and Croatian neighbors in Sarajevo, helped save their city during the Bosnian war, 1992-1995.

November 7 - Jews of Poland and Russia — Sharon Tash will explore with you the history of Eastern European Jews through two Centropa stories: Mieczyslaw Weinryb grew up in beautiful Zamosc, Poland, with Zionists, Bundists, Communists and religious Jews. And Haya Lea Detinko — like Amos Oz's mother - lived in Rovno. They went to the same school, joined the same youth club. Oz's mother Fania escaped and Haya Lea ended up in Stalin's gulag while her parents remained to face the Nazis.



<u>November 14 - Our own family stories</u> – Bring your own family photos to share your family stories of journeys from "the old country" to America. Facilitator *Lauren Granite* will discuss how to do so using Centropa's methods.

Instructors will suggest readings for each topic, including history, short stories and films.

Entire series: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75 Individual session: JSC and Adas members \$15, non-members \$20

### Pre-registration required by the Monday 6 P.M. before each class at:

### www.jewishstudycenter.org

or by: email: info@jewishstudycenter.org orphone: 202-332-1221

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## Time and Money: An Economic Perspective on American Jewish Observance Wednesdays October 17, 31, November 7, 14 8:15-9:25 PM Instructor: Carmel Chiswick

Economics might not seem to have much to do with our Jewish lives, but you'd be amazed how many of our religious choices can actually be illuminated by using economic principles! Economic historian *Carmel Chiswick*, who has pioneered this field, shows how economic factors influence our decisions to allocate time and resources to Jewish practice; how scarcity, supply and demand, and other principles shape Israel-Diaspora relations; and much more! *Carmel Chiswick, Ph.D.* is professor of economics at George Washington University.



JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75 Individual session: members \$15; non-members \$20

## Wednesdays October 17, 31, November 7, 14 8:15-9:25 PM Instructor: Steve Berer

This class will analyze the first 4 parshiot of Bereishit (Genesis) with a modern, literary sensibility. The following topics will guide our reading and analysis: science, myth, legend, and history in Torah; Torah as a text comprised of multiple documents; the problem of distinguishing human authorship from divine revelation; and the role played by personality types as illuminated by Freudian analysis. *Steve Berer* has taught Jewish Studies in a day school and is a writer of poetry, focusing on the existential and spiritual issues of Jewish identity in the world today. You can find his poetry and illuminations at <a href="http://www.shivvetee.com">http://www.shivvetee.com</a> and <a href="http://shivvetee.blogspot.com">http://shivvetee.blogspot.com</a>.

JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75 Individual session members \$15; non-members \$20

# Faith and Foxholes: Religion and the U.S. Military Today Wednesday October 31 7:00-8:15 P.M. Instructor: Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff

Church-state issues, including the Constitutional guarantee of free exercise of religion, have led the U.S. military to support religious free exercise to the greatest extent possible in military situations. On the other hand, the principle of separation of church and state constantly raises questions about the limits of support the government or the military can provide. This session will combine history and policy with anecdotes and personal experiences from the speaker's long and distinguished military career, providing a glimpse into the role of the military chaplain and the challenges and opportunities facing personnel who want to be loyal to their faith as well as their country. *Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff* is a noted consultant on interfaith values and interreligious affairs, a retired Navy Chaplain, a former Special Assistant for Values and Vision to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, and a former National Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

JSC and Adas members \$15, non-members \$20

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### Experiencing the Jews of Azerbaijan Wednesday November 7 7:00-8:15 P.M.

**Instructor: Diana Cohen Altman** 

"Experiencing Jewish Azerbaijan" paints a picture of the comfortable home that Jews have created in Azerbaijan over centuries. The talk portion highlights the ancient "Mountain Jews" community of Quba, the Rothschild family who participated in the country's oil boom years, and the European intellectuals who have contributed to the rich cultural life of the capital city of Baku. Perhaps the most famous Azerbaijani Jew is Gary Kasparov. *Diana Cohen Altman* is a longtime cultural professional in the Washington, D.C., area. She is currently Executive Director of the Karabakh Foundation. Previously she was Director of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum and senior exhibits writer at the Smithsonian Institution.

JSC and Adas members \$15, non-members \$20

**Jewish American Writers: Famous and Not So Famous Wednesdays November 7, 14, 28 7:00-8:15 P.M.** 

November 7—Avram Davidson: The Greatest Writer You Never Heard Of —Washington Post book critic Michael Dirda called Davidson (1923-1993) "one of the most original and charming writers of our time." An Orthodox Jew who fought in the Israeli War of Independence, he was the only person to win all three top awards for science fiction, fantasy and mystery (the Hugo, the World Fantasy Award, and the Edgar), but his fiction has more in common with modernists like Jorge Luis Borges and Italo Calvino than with standard genre fiction. We will discuss his fiction, some of which was Jewish—themed, and which ranged in setting from Outer Space to ancient Rome to Belize. We will read his very short story, "And Don't Forget the One Red Rose." Instructor *Jeff Gorsky* is a career State Department attorney who served in Spain for two years, and worked another two years as the State Department intelligence analyst for Iberia. He has been working for the past six years on the book, *Jewish Blood*, a history of the Spanish Jews.

**November 14—Three Jewish American Poets**— In this class you will read poems from three Jewish-American poets who should be better known: Irving Feldman, Shirley Kaufman, and Jacqueline Osherow. Themes we'll discuss include: the Holocaust, mother-daughter relationships, and a yearning for the Yiddish language. We will discuss their biographies, particularly as they bear on their poetry. Instructor *Barbara White* is a Jewish learner, davenner, Torah reader, and published poet. She credits the Jewish Study Center with much of her Jewish education.

**November 28—Chaim Potok**—Descendant of a Chasidishe dynasty, first-generation American, Conservative rabbi, combat chaplain, academic, philosopher, editor, painter, historian ... and a best-selling novelist with considerable literary influence. Who? Chaim Potok z''l, of course. Come hear more about the literary works of this extraordinary human being. Instructor *Jonina Duker*, started her first book discussion group when she was in seventh grade. She's been talking about books since. She teaches adults and children, and learns whenever she can.

Three sessions: JSC and Adas members \$40, non-members \$55 Individual session members \$15; non-members \$20

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2850 Quebec St NW—(1 block from Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line) (Co-sponsored with Adas Israel Congregation)

# The First American Jews and How They Came to New York Wednesday November 28—7:00-8:30 P.M. Instructor: Jeff Gorsky

Jews played an important role in the colonization of the Americas in the 1600s, mainly in Dutch settlements. The class will discuss the Dutch colonies in northern Brazil, and how, by 1640, about half the population of Dutch-controlled Recife was Jewish, with two synagogues. It will cover the large Jewish settlements in the Dutch colonies of Suriname and Curacao, and how those colonists expanded to British and French colonies and how a small group of refugees from the Portuguese reconquest of Brazil found shelter in Dutch New Amsterdam, forming in 1654 what could become as Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. *Jeffrey Gorsky*—see bio on page 7.

JSC and Adas members \$15, non-members \$20

### Thursday nights at Hill Center

921 Pennsylvania Avenue. S.E. (2 blocks from Eastern Market Metro)

Co-sponsored by Hill Havurah

# Receiving Holiness: The Jewish Holidays Thursdays October 18, 25, November 8, 15—7:30-9:00PM Instructor: Jay McCrensky

This course explores the cycle of Jewish holidays, including Shabbat. We will look at the holidays' historical origins, the laws (halakha) concerning their observance, and contemporary meanings and practices. The instructor will also bring insights from Kabbalah to help illuminate the holidays' spiritual foundations. **Dr. Jay McCrensky** is a professor of Judaism at St. Mary's College of Maryland. His PhD is in Jewish Studies. He is a member of Fabrangen Havurah and a well-known klezmer musician and dance leader.

JSC members \$40, Hill Havurah members \$20 (sponsored), non-members \$50

### Thursday Challah-Baking November 1—7:30-9:00PM

**Instructor: Susan Finston** 

Have you ever wanted to experience the aroma of homemade challah in your kitchen on Erev Shabbat? Baking your own challah is a special way to bring the spirituality of Shabbat into your home. Longtime homebaking challah enthusiast *Susan Finston* will teach this one session workshop with tips on braiding and baking challah and adding that special Shabbat feeling. Join her to start your own tradition of baking challah at home! *Susan Finston* has been baking challah for friends and family since the early 1980's. Over the last 30 years she has baked or carried homemade challah to overseas destinations including Ahmedabad, Beijing, Manila and Bhutan. She is the founder and principal of Finston Consulting, LLC. (Class size limited to maximum of 12 participants.)

Pre-Registration and Pre-Payment required.

Hill Havurah and JSC members \$20, non-members \$25

Register for all our courses at www.jewishstudycenter.org

#### **About the Jewish Study Center**

The Jewish Study Center was founded in 1978 as an independent nonprofit institute of adult Jewish education in the Washington, D.C. area. Our mission is to provide classes and programs of Jewish study in the widest possible breadth of topics in an atmosphere where any person, regardless of background or level of current involvement, can feel comfortable studying and establishing a serious relationship with the Jewish tradition.

### www.jewishstudycenter.org

Email: <u>info@jewishstudycenter.org</u> Phone: 202-332-1221

#### **Weather-Related Cancellations**

Classes may be cancelled for the following reasons:

- •The building is closed, due to inclement weather.
- •The teacher cannot make it to the class, due to inclement weather.
- •The teacher cannot make it to the class due to illness.

The easiest way to see if a class is cancelled to inclement weather is to call the building where your class will be held: Adas Israel Synagogue: (202) 362-4433, <a href="www.adasisrael.org">www.adasisrael.org</a>; National Museum of American Jewish Military History and Jewish War Veterans of America, (202) 265-6280; The Hill Center (202) 549-4172.

If a class is cancelled due to teacher illness we will notify you as soon as possible. Class sessions cancelled due to weather will be rescheduled as soon as possible and when possible at the same place, time and day of the week as the original session. For information about rescheduled class sessions, refunds or other matters, please call (202-332-1221) or message the Study Center at <a href="mailto:info@jewishstudycenter.org">info@jewishstudycenter.org</a>.

#### **Enrollment-Related Cancellations**

We request that you pre-register and pre-pay for the classes so we can inform you of any potential changes in the class. If there are no pre-registrations 24 hours before a class, that class may be cancelled.

If fewer than five students show up for a class's first session, the instructor has the option of cancelling the class after waiting 15 minutes. (However, many instructors choose to proceed.) If your class is cancelled due to under-enrollment prior to the first session, we will make every effort to inform you if you have signed up. Cancellations will also be posted on our web site. All advance cancellations will be posted by 12 pm the day of a scheduled program.

We suggest you check our web site after 12 pm the day of your program to confirm your course status.

#### **Volunteer Program**

If you would like to take classes but tuition is a barrier, please contact us about receiving free tuition in return for volunteering your time. We are a teaching and learning community and want no one turned away for financial reasons. Contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@jewishstudycenter">info@jewishstudycenter</a> or (202) 332-1221 to be scheduled as soon as possible and when possible at the same place, time and day of the week as the original session.

FOR DONATIONS TO US THROUGH THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC):

OUR CFC # IS: 29158



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For information about registration, classes or to make donations go to our website:

### WWW.JEWISHSTUDYCENTER.ORG

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### Look on our website for updated information on time for:

Our Annual Special Chanukah Program— Introduction, Candle-lighting, Latkes, Guided Tours of Museum

at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History 1811 R Street, NW—(1 block NE of Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line) (Co-sponsored with the Museum)

### **Other Community Events**

### Jewish Folk Arts Festival

A Community-wide Celebration of Jewish Arts and Culture with Performances, Workshops and Exhibits



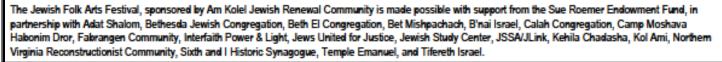
November 17, 2012 - Concert - 8:00pm "Of Love and Justice I will Sing" - Tifereth Israel Congregation

> November 18, 2012 - Festival - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Festival at B'nai Israel Congregation

#### Featuring

More than 100 artists, performers and presenters within a 120 mile radius.

For details go to: www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com



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www.jewishstudycenter.org

You may also register through our website:

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### Registration—Fall 2012

Tuesdays at Museum (Dupont Circle)		Wednesdays at Adas Israel (Cleveland Park)						
Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost	Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost	
Modern Midrash	Oct. 23, Nov. 13, 20, 27 7-8:15 PM	x \$55 JSC, JWV, Museum members x \$75 non-members		Eastern Europe and History Thru Stories	Oct. 17, 31 Nov. 7, 14 7-8:15 PM	x \$55 JSC, Adas members x \$75 non-members		
Non-dual Judaism	Oct. 23, Nov. 20 Dec. 18 7-8:15 PM	x 40 JSC, JSC, Museum members x \$55 non-members		<u>Jewish</u> <u>Economics</u>	Oct. 17, 31 Nov. 7, 14 8:15-9:25 PM	x 55 JSC, Adas members x \$75 non-members		
Klezmer Music and Dance	Oct. 23 6:30-7:30PM 7:30-8:30PM	x 25 JSC, JwV, Museum members x \$35 non-members		<u>Unpacking</u> <u>Torah</u>	Oct. 17, 31 Nov. 7, 14 8:15-9:25PM	x \$55 JSC, Adas members x \$75 non-members		
Jews in Hollywood	Oct. 30 7-8:30PM	x \$15 JSC, JWV, Museum members x \$20 non-members		<u>Faith</u> <u>and</u> Foxholes	Oct. 31 7-8:15PM	x \$15 JSC, Adas members x \$20 non-members		
Jews as Liberals	Nov. 13, 27 7-8:15 PM	x 25 JSC, JWV, Museum members x \$35 non-members		<u>Jewish</u> <u>American</u> <u>Writers</u>	<u>American</u>	Nov. 7, 14, 28	All three sessions x \$40 JSC, Adas members x \$55 non-members	
American Jewish Military History	Dec. 18 7-8:15 PM	x \$15 JSC, JWV, Museum members x \$20 non-members			7-8:15 PM	Per session x \$15 JSC, Adas members x \$20 non-members		
Thursdays at Hill Center (Eastern Market) With Hill Havurah								
<u>Jewish</u> <u>Holidays</u>	Oct. 18, 25 Nov. 8, 15 7:30-9:00PM	x \$20 Hill Havurah members x \$40 JSC members x \$50 non-members		<u>Jews of</u> <u>Azerbaijan</u>	Nov. 7 7-8:15 PM	x \$15 JSC, Adas members x \$20 non-members		
Challah Baking	Nov. 1 7:30-9:00PM	x \$20 Hill Havurah, JSC members x \$30 non-members		<u>First</u> <u>Jewish</u> <u>Americans</u>	Nov. 28 7-8:30 PM	x \$15 JSC, Adas members x \$20 non-members		



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### JSC Class Locations—near metro stops!

National Museum of American Jewish Military History (Tuesdays)—1811 R Street, NW, DC (1 block NE of Dupont Circle North Metro—Red Line)

Adas Israel Congregation (Wednessdays)—2850 Quebec Street, NW, DC (1 block from Cleveland Park Metro—Red Line)

**Hill Center (Thursdays)**—921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, DC (2 blocks from Eastern Market Metro—Blue and Orange Line)

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