

CULTURAL ARTS & JEWISH HERITAGE SPEAKER SERIES

Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday afternoons
Suggested donation: \$5 m/\$8 nm (except where noted)

CENTRAL QUEENS Y
67-09 108th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375
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20th Annual Author's Cafe to benefit the Cultural Arts & Jewish Heritage Programs



PROFESSORS DOV WAXMAN & STEVEN M. COHEN
TROUBLE IN THE TRIBE:

The American Jewish Conflict over Israel

Sunday, November 6, 2 p.m.

For over a generation, solidarity with Israel was one of the bonds that brought American Jews together. Now, in a fundamental shift in recent years, Israel has become a wedge issue, dividing us. Professors Dov Waxman and Steven M. Cohen will discuss the reasons for this shift. In his new book, Prof. Waxman presents a balanced view of the American Jewish debate about Israel in the context of broader cultural, political, and demographic changes. Prof. Waxman teaches Israel studies at Northeastern University. Steven M. Cohen is Research Professor at HUC-JIR and was lead researcher on the 2011 NY Jewish Community Study.

At the Forest Hills Jewish Center. Dessert & Coffee. \$16 in advance



NAHEED BAHRAM

WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN & AFGHAN WOMEN IN THE U.S.

Monday, September 19, 1:30 p.m.

How are the lives of women in Afghanistan changing? The media reports ongoing violence against women in Afghanistan. At the same time, Afghan society is undergoing significant cultural changes. Today Afghan women are winning hard earned victories in terms of self-determination and education. Bahram will also discuss the challenges Afghan families face as they transition to life in the U.S. Program Director of Women for Afghan Women, Naheed Bahram immigrated to Pakistan with her family after her mother died in a bomb explosion in Kabul, and later she taught in Afghan refugee camps in Peshawar.



MASHA GESSEN

WHERE THE JEWS AREN'T: The Story of Birobidzhan, a Zionist Dream for Siberia

Monday, September 26, 1:30 p.m.

In 1929, two decades before the founding of the state of Israel, the Soviet Union created a homeland for Jews in Birobidzhan. It was championed by Jewish intellectuals who envisioned a place of post-oppression Jewish culture, and by the early 1930s tens of thousands of Jews had moved there from the shtetls. After World War II, the "Jewish Autonomous Region" received an influx of Jewish Holocaust survivors and refugees. In the late 1940s, a wave of arrests swept through Birobidzhan, silencing the Jews. Remarkably, today the Jewish Region is experiencing a small revival, thanks to Jews arriving from Israel. Masha Gessen is an award winning Russian-American journalist and author.



FORMER NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE MARK GREEN & FORMER NYS COMPTROLLER ALAN HEVESI

THE RISE OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS & THE 2016 ELECTION

Tuesday, September 27, 1 p.m.

In 2001, Mark Green and Alan Hevesi faced off in the NYC Democratic mayoral primary race. In his new memoir, Mark Green discusses that historic election and how the values of the '60s are shaping a new progressive majority in 2016. Green worked with Ralph Nader for a decade and later served as NYC Public Advocate for ten years. *The Nation* called him "next to Nader, the leading public interest lawyer of his generation." Alan Hevesi is former State and City Comptroller. These two major political figures will discuss what it's like and what it takes behind the scenes in politics in the context of this momentous presidential election.



LOUIS GRUMET

THE CURIOUS CASE OF KIRYAS JOEL:

The Rise of a Village Theocracy and the Battle to Defend the Separation of Church and State

Monday, October 31, 1:30 p.m.

Twenty years ago, in the middle of the night, the NYS Legislature created a publicly funded school district for Satmar Hasidim in Kiryas Joel. Marking the first time in American history that a public school district was established for a religious group, the legislature's action eventually led to a landmark Supreme Court case, which became the most important legal precedent in the fight to uphold the separation of church and state. Then Director of NYS School Boards Association, Louis Grumet became the plaintiff in this landmark case. In his new book, Grumet opens a window into the Satmar Hasidic community, whose Yiddish language and different customs have led to clashes with neighboring communities, and unpacks the ongoing debate over freedom of - vs. freedom from - religion.



Kristallnacht Program
ANDREW NAGORSKI

THE NAZI HUNTERS

Monday, November 7, 1:30 p.m.

Soon after the Nuremberg trials, most countries lost interest in prosecuting Nazi war criminals. Many of the perpetrators blended in with the millions who were seeking to rebuild their lives, while others fled the continent. But there was a small band of men and women who refused to forget the crimes of the Third Reich - and it was their relentless pursuit that resulted in the capture of infamous perpetrators such as Adolf Eichmann, Klaus Barbie, and Rudolf Hoess, as well as many less well-known Nazis, and the final accounting for others such as Josef Mengele. Andrew Nagorski served as *Newsweek's* bureau chief in Hong Kong, Moscow, Rome, and Berlin.



RABBI MARC ANGEL

THE QUEST FOR MEANING: Ancient Wisdom for Today
Monday, November 14, 1:30 p.m.

Today we are barraged by more information than any earlier generation, yet many of us are much less clear about the meaning of our lives. **What is the meaning of our lives? What are the basic foundations of wisdom and morality?** These same questions were part of the spiritual journey of King Solomon, as captured in the Song of Songs, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. The wisdom in these ancient books still speaks to us today, as we wrestle with the disquiet of contemporary life. One of the spiritual leaders of the American Sephardic Jewish community, Marc Angel is Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Shearith Israel, and founder and director of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals.



EZRA GLINTER

How *The Forward* Helped Shape Modern Yiddish Literature
Monday, November 28, 1:30 p.m.

The Forward welcomed generations of immigrants to the United States and provided them with everything from news of Europe to comic strips and noodle kugel recipes. It also published some of the most acclaimed Yiddish writers of all time, including Nobel Prize laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, Abraham Cahan, Sholem Asch, and Chaim Grade. In fact, ***The Forward* was so widely read and so influential in the lives of the millions of Yiddish-speaking immigrants to the U.S., that it helped shape modern Yiddish literature.** *The Forward's* Critic-at-Large Ezra Gliner will discuss how this literature reflected the concerns of writers and their readers, including the challenges of immigration, the anxieties of the two world wars, and changing forms of Jewish identity.



ADAM KIRSCH

THE PEOPLE AND THE BOOKS: Ancient Questions, Evolving Answers
Monday, December 5, 1:30 p.m.

The phrase "People of the Book" was first used in the Koran to refer to Jews because of the importance of books as the binding force at the core of Jewish culture. In his new book, Adam Kirsch explores the ongoing conversation within our literature about the critical questions facing Jews over thousands of years, such as the challenges of living as a minority in the Diaspora and the relationship of Jews to their Promised Land. He explores an eclectic group of texts, including the Book of Esther, the autobiography of medieval business woman Gluckel of Hameln, the heretical texts of Spinoza, and the stories of Sholem Aleichem, as Jews emerged from the Pale. Literary critic Adam Kirsch is Director of the Master's Program in Jewish Studies at Columbia University.



FALL CLASSES & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Film Discussion with Film Critic Matthew Weiss
- Behind the Election Headlines with Alan Hevesi
- Turning Points in Jewish History
- Drawing: A Starting Point for All Else
- Book Discussion Group
- Tutoring: Literacy & ESL for Afghan Women



Photo credits: Mark Green, Jonah Green; Masha Gessen, Lee Towndrow; Ezra Gliner, Nick Russell; Louis Grumet, Megan Groppe; Andrew Nagorski, Andrew Rudakov

Cultural Arts & Jewish Heritage Programs
The Hevesi Speaker Series
FALL 2016



CONVERSATIONS WITH AUTHORS & FILMMAKERS

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Another Quality Community Center of the Samuel Field Y