

SPRING 2026



# LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Learning Center sponsored by  
JCC MetroWest Center for Adult Enrichment

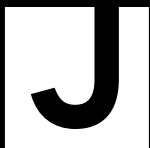


**\$80 GUEST PASS FOR THE SEMESTER**

Life Long Learning is generously supported by



Cooperman Barnabas  
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**MetroWest**

760 Northfield Avenue  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
jccmetrowest.org

JCC MetroWest strives to ensure access and meaningful participation by all members of the community.



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater MetroWest NJ

JCC MetroWest is a beneficiary agency of  
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Leon and Toby Cooperman JCC | Pauline B. and Mortimer Salzman Building | Eric F. and Lore Ross Family Campus

## Hamilton: The Man, The Musical, The Cultural Phenomenon with John Kenrick

Wednesday, February 18 at 1:00pm

Maurice Levin Theater



John Kenrick explores how the turbulent life of America's most controversial founding father, Alexander Hamilton, inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda's record-breaking hip-hop musical, revealing rare footage and backstage stories.

**About the speaker:** John Kenrick is a musical theatre historian,

author, and Broadway insider who has taught at NYU's Steinhardt School. He is a founding curator for the new Museum of Broadway in NYC.

**FREE for JCC Members; \$15 Guest  
\$80 guest pass for the semester**

## Carole King: She Made the Earth Move with author Jane Eisner

Monday, February 23 at 1:00pm

Maurice Levin Theater



Jane Eisner traces the professional accomplishments and personal challenges of pop icon Carole King, exploring her unique contribution to American music.

**About the speaker:** Jane Eisner is a widely published journalist who held leadership positions at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Forward*. She is also the author of *Taking Back the Vote*.

**FREE for JCC Members; \$15 Guest**

**Books will be available to purchase, and the author will be happy to sign them.**

Sponsored by   Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Saving Abigail: The True Story of the Abduction and Rescue of a Three-Year-Old Hostage with author and great aunt, Liz Hirsh Naftali

Wednesday, March 4 at 1:00pm

Tepper Hall





*Saving Abigail* is a true story of a little girl taken hostage by Hamas the morning of October 7, 2023. With no road map for how to save a hostage, Abigail's great aunt Liz Hirsh

Naftali undertook an international effort to share her niece's face and story with US and world leaders.

**About the speaker:** Liz Hirsh Naftali is a Humanitarian Ambassador, author and businesswoman. Her life's work reflects a commitment to justice, humanity and building connections across borders.

**FREE for JCC Members; \$15 Guest**

**Books will be available to purchase, and the author will be happy to sign them.**

Sponsored by   Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Marcel Duchamp: The Alchemist of the Avant-Garde with Janet Mandel

Wednesday, March 25 at 1:00pm

Maurice Levin Theater



Marcel Duchamp, modern art's defining iconoclast, constantly reinvented himself, challenging artistic norms and inspiring generations. Discover his innovative, genre-shifting works and the lasting shockwaves they sent through contemporary art.

**About the speaker:** Janet Mandel retired after teaching for 32 years in the New Jersey public schools. She now presents illustrated

lectures on art history at museums, adult schools, libraries, and senior centers.

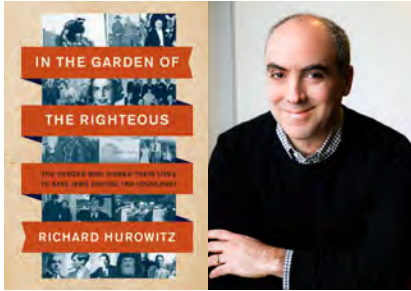
**FREE for JCC Members; \$15 Guest**

Sponsored by  **Right at Home**  
In Home Care & Assistance

## YOM HASHOAH

### *In the Garden of the Righteous: The Heros Who Risked Their Lives to Save Jews During the Holocaust* with author Richard Hurowitz

**Tuesday, April 14 at 1:00pm**  
Maurice Levin Theater



*The Garden of the Righteous* chronicles extraordinary acts amid immense threats and widespread apathy, presenting ten deeply researched, astonishingly moving stories of courage

and moral choice during a dark era.

**About the Speaker:** Richard Hurowitz, writer and founder of the Octavian Report, has been published in major outlets including the New York Times and Wall Street Journal. He holds degrees from Yale and Columbia Law.

**FREE to All. Reservations strongly encouraged.**  
**Books will be available to purchase and the author will be happy to sign them.**

Sponsored by   Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

### *Our Golden Age of Jewish Architects* with author Abbie Gorin

**Wednesday, April 22 at 1:00pm**  
Maurice Levin Theater



This presentation highlights the influential work of Jewish architects—Frank Gehry, Moshe Safdie, Daniel Libeskind, and Richard Meier—whose designs have shaped modern architecture and cultural identity worldwide.

**About the speaker:** Abbie Gorin is a retired attorney and longtime tenants' rights advocate in NY and NJ. A dedicated educator, he developed Jewish heritage curricula, and his work has been featured by the International Center for Humanistic Judaism and *Jewish Currents*.

**FREE for JCC Members; \$15 Guest**

### Raphael: Artist and Visionary with Janet Mandel

**Wednesday, April 29 at 1:00pm**  
Maurice Levin Theater



Raphael, a master of High Renaissance harmony and beauty, shaped our understanding of artistic perfection. This presentation previews the Met's 2026 exhibition of over 200 works, illuminating his creative process and vision.

**About the speaker:** Janet Mandel retired after teaching for 32 years in the New Jersey public schools. She now presents illustrated lectures on art history at museums, adult schools, libraries, and senior centers.

**FREE for JCC Members; \$15 Guest**



**On Thursday, April 30 we will be headed to the MET for a day trip to see the exhibit, Raphael: Sublime Poetry.**

**Please contact Michele Bernstein at 973-530-3447 or [mbernstein@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:mbernstein@jccmetrowest.org) for more information.**

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### ChatGPT, Robots and You with Chris Strom

**Wednesday, May 6 at 1:00pm**  
Tepper Hall



Artificial intelligence powers tools like ChatGPT and household robots, helping with daily tasks. Learn simple, safe ways to use AI, avoid scams, and understand how it's shaping the future for your children and grandchildren.

**About the speaker:** Chris Strom is a nonprofit executive, marketer, and AI educator serving as CMO at the Sunrise Association and teaching at Seton Hall University Stillman School of Business. He previously worked as COO at JCC MetroWest.

**FREE to All. Registration required.**  
**Dessert reception following the program.**

***This program and dessert reception are sponsored by Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's Next Chapter.***

**A RWJ BARNABAS HEALTH/COOPERMAN  
BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER LECTURE**

**Super Agers: How to Live Long  
and Prosper with  
Dr. Theresa M. Redling DO, FACP**

**Wednesday, May 13 at 1:00pm**  
Tepper Hall



Explore Blue Zones and Super Agers, understand U.S. aging demographics, review healthy aging guidelines, and learn about new treatments for age-related illnesses, such as Alzheimer's and other dementias.

**About the speaker:**

Theresa M. Redling DO, FACP is Chief of Geriatric Health and Disease Management at the Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center, Medical Director of the Maida Geriatric Institute, Chair of the RWJBarnabas Health Geriatric Collaborative, and an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

**FREE to All. Reservations strongly encouraged.**

*Provided by the Community Health & Outreach  
Department at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center.*

**MOLLY BURACK ANNUAL LECTURE**

***Melting Point: Family, Memory,  
and the Search for a Promised Land*  
with author Rachel Cockerell**

**Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00pm**  
Maurice Levin Theater



Rachel Cockerell will discuss her innovative family memoir, which tells the story of a long-lost plan to create a Jewish state in Texas. She weaves together diaries,

letters, newspaper articles, and interviews in a highly inventive style.

**About the speaker:** Rachel Cockerell is an author and historian whose debut book, *Melting Point*, draws on research across the U.S. and Israel. She has shared her work on CNN, BBC, TEDx, and at the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

**FREE to All. Reservations strongly encouraged.**  
Dessert reception following the program.

Books will be available to purchase, and the author will be happy to sign them.

*This program is in memory of Molly Burack and is made possible through the generosity of her children.*

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Made possible by funds from the  
New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner  
agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

All programs are in-person and will take place at JCC MetroWest.

**Advance registration strongly encouraged – register today!**

Call: **973-530-3447**

or **973-530-3474**

Online: **[jccmw.us/LLLsp26](http://jccmw.us/LLLsp26)**

Scan the  
QR code >



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973-530-3447 or [mbernstein@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:mbernstein@jccmetrowest.org)