

Find
Your Place
at the  **Bender JCC**
of Greater Washington



Programs for Active Adults
Around Town
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

CoA • Adults • Arts • Culture • Fitness



jssa

GAMES

Canasta

Beginner | Monday & Thursday | October 5 - 22 | 10:00 AM

Intermediate | Monday & Thursday | October 5 - 22 | 12:30 PM

\$180/member | \$200/public

Mah Jongg

Beginner | Wednesday | September 2 - 23 | 10:00 AM

| Tuesday | October 6 - November 3 | 10:00 AM

| Monday | November 9 - 30 | 10:00 AM

| Tuesday | November 10 - December 1 | 10:00 AM

| Tuesday | November 3 - 24 | 6:00 PM

| Monday | | December 1 - 22 | 6:00 PM

| Evening | Monday | December 7 - 28 | 10:00 AM

| Tuesday | December 8 - 29 | 10:00 AM

\$130/member | \$150/public

Intermediate | Wednesday | October 7 - 28 | 10:00 AM

| Wednesday | November 4 - December 2 | 10:00 AM

| Tuesday | November 10 - December 1 | 12:30 PM

| Tuesday | December 8 - 29 | 12:30 PM

| Wednesday | December 9 - 30 | 10:00 AM

\$130/member | \$150/public

Advanced Intermediate | Wednesday | September 2 - 23 | 12:30 PM

| Monday | October 5 - 26 | 12:30 PM

| Monday | November 9 - 30 | 12:30 PM

| Monday | December 7 - 28 | 12:30 PM

\$130/member | \$150/public

Bridge

Beginner | Friday | September 18 - October 23 | 10:00 AM

| Tuesday | December 1 - January 5, 2027 | 10:00 AM

\$190/member | \$210/public

SIP & SHARE: WOMEN CONNECT

1st and 3rd Mondays | 1:30 PM | \$40/Annually
Begins, Monday, October 5

Join us for a hot beverage, a little something for your sweet-tooth, and an opportunity to share ideas and experiences.



Be a part of a warm and welcoming club, providing connection, camaraderie and conversation. Explore a variety of topics, from life experiences and current events to hobbies, travel, and more.

Questions? Contact Frieda: Fenoch@benderjccgw.org; 301-348-3809

LEARN HEBREW

Whether you're just starting or looking to refine your fluency, Bender JCC's Ulpan offers Hebrew classes for every level. As the area's only Ulpan, we provide an immersive, supportive environment to help you build confidence and connect through language.

Visit benderjccgw.org/hebrew to sign up!



SENIOR NUTRITION

Selma Sweetbaum Senior Nutrition Program strives to prevent isolation, improve nutrition, build community, and enable participants to age in place.

Mondays and Wednesdays (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Sept. to Jun.)
Enjoy chair exercises, performances, lectures, and a nutritious Kosher lunch.

To RSVP, Please contact Stacey Singer at
ssinger@benderjccgw.org or call 301-348-3849

CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND LECTURES

JCC'S Writers Café

Monday | August 31 - November 23 | 10:00 AM

\$220/member | \$240/public

Explore and share your life stories through guided memoir writing in a warm, supportive workshop for adults.

No writing experience is necessary. Taught by writer, teacher, and longtime JCC member Andie Wax.



JCC Men's Club Community Lectures

Sammy Davis Jr.

Tuesday, September 1 | 1:15 PM | Free

Join Sheldon Lehner for a look at the life and career of Sammy Davis Jr. Through video clips and historical insights, explore his lasting impact on music, film, and American culture. Includes Q&A. Available on Zoom. Light refreshments served.



Ernie Pyle

Tuesday, October 6 | 1:15 PM | Free

Steve LaRocque explores the work of famed World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle through excerpts from his reporting, highlighting the stories of everyday soldiers. Open to the community and available on Zoom.



U.S. Citizenship Course | Tuesday | September 8 - November 24 | 10:00 AM | Free

Prepare for your Naturalization Interview with instructor John Schmelzer. Review U.S. history, government, civics, and Form N-400 interview questions in a supportive classroom setting. All materials are provided.



**Biblical Archaeology Forum: The Oracle at Delphi
Wednesday, September 23 | 7:45 PM | \$10**

Discover how the Oracle at Delphi became the ancient world's most influential center of prophecy. Presented by Joseph Scholten (University of Maryland). BAF Members: Free | General Admission: \$10 at the door.



Questions? Contact mblackman@benderjccgw.org; 301.348.3808

CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND LECTURES

J-Talks: AI Demystified

October 7, 14, 21, and 28 | 1:00 PM | \$80

The future is now... and it's easier than you think! Learn the essentials of AI (including Chat GPT) and how it can help you save time, stay connected, learn faster, and maintain independence.



At the end of this four-session in-person series, you will understand the difference between helpful AI tools and common AI myths and how we use AI to solve everyday problems without even knowing it. Through easy-to-follow examples and live demos, you will learn what today's AI tools can do so you can use them yourself. You'll also know how to take steps to protect your personal information online and identify warning signs of AI scams.

Wine and Design: Art With A Jewish Twist

Monday | October 5, November 2, December 7 | 6:30 PM

\$36/class | \$90/all 3 classes

Unwind, Connect, and Create!

Trade your screen time for craft time! Adults of all ages are invited to join us for a curated selection of boutique wines paired with artisanal cheeses and decadent sweets, followed by step-by-step crafts projects celebrating Jewish themes. Zero experience required! Grab a glass, connect with our vibrant community, and discover your inner artist. You'll leave with new friends and your own handmade masterpiece! *All supplies included.



1. Decoupage Technique
2. Mosaic Design
3. Kinusaiga (Japanese Fabric Art)

Questions? Contact Frieda: Fenoch@benderjccgw.org; 301-348-3809

COFFEEHOUSE

Seth Kibel & The Kleztet!

Thursday, September 24 | 7:00 PM | \$52

Enjoy an evening of lively klezmer, Yiddish folksongs, jazz, and swing featuring music by Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and more. Seth Kibel and his band combine exceptional musicianship with historical insights and humor for an unforgettable performance.

The evening begins with heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and wine before the concert.



Comedy with Joel Chasnoff

Wednesday, October 28 | 7:00 PM | \$52

Join us for an evening of laughs with stand-up comedian Joel Chasnoff, whose clever, family-friendly comedy celebrates the joys and oys of Jewish life. A former IDF soldier and award-winning author, Joel has performed at more than 1,500 Jewish events in 10 countries. On October 28, he'll be HERE—don't miss it!

The evening begins with heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and wine before the show.



The Streisand Songbook with Sharon Owens

Thursday, December 10 | 7:00 PM | \$52

Experience the magic of an icon! Join us for a dazzling evening with the acclaimed Barbra Streisand tribute artist who *People* magazine described as "one of the best impersonators in the world," Sharon Owens! Internationally recognized for her remarkable voice and resemblance, Sharon has performed across Europe, Israel, Asia, and Australia, including a sold-out six-week run in London.

Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, and decadent desserts before the show.



Questions? Contact Frieda: Fenoch@benderjccgw.org; 301-348-3809

EXCURSIONS

Exploration, Elevated: Inside the New National Geographic Museum

Wednesday, September 30 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM | \$75

Be among the first to experience this world-class destination! Far more than a traditional museum, this extraordinary space invites you to explore the world through breathtaking photography, interactive exhibits, and inspiring stories from across the globe.



Enjoy a private guided tour as we journey through remarkable discoveries, cultures, and adventures that shape our planet. Cafeteria onsite - lunch on your own.

Ride Included | LW-Clubhouse II: 10:30 AM | Bender JCC: 11:00 AM

Some Like it Hot - Olney Theater

Thursday, October 22 | 7:30 PM | \$85

Join CoA at the Olney Theater for ***Some Like It Hot***. This high-energy, Tony & Grammy award-winning Broadway musical comedy was adapted from the classic 1959 Billy Wilder film. Set during Prohibition, it follows



two musicians who witness a mob hit and disguise themselves as women to join an all-female band. It's an irresistible combination of heart and laughs, with show-stopping choreography. Named Best Musical by the Drama Desk, The Drama League, and the Outer Critics Circle!

"A Super-Sized, All-Out Song-And-Dance Spectacular!"
– The New York Times

Bus Pick-Up | Bender JCC: 6:00 PM | LW-Clubhouse II: 6:30 PM

Questions? Contact Frieda: Fenoch@benderjccgw.org; 301-348-3809

LESSANS FAMILY LITERARY SERIES

***Off the Record* by Sara Goodman Confino**

Tuesday, September 15 | 6:00 PM
\$25 ticket | \$36 ticket and book*

Enjoy kosher light bites and wine before a conversation with bestselling local author Sara Goodman Confino, author of the Goodreads Choice nominees *Behind Every Good Man* and *Don't Forget to Write*, as part of the ***Lessans Family Literary Series***. Sara will discuss her new novel, *Off the Record*, a Cold War story of journalism, espionage, secrets, and romance.



Moderated by Lisa Schneider, founder of Pearl and Rose.

Books will be available for purchase, followed by a book signing.

** Registration required by September 8. Walk-ins on a limited basis*

Book Lovers Brunch

***The Last Woman of Warsaw* by Judy Batalion**

Friday, October 16 | 10:30 AM | \$36

Bring your book club, or simply your love of reading, to our **Book Lovers Brunch** as part of the ***Lessans Family Literary Series***.



Enjoy a delicious kosher brunch and conversation with New York Times bestselling author **Judy Batalion** about her new novel, *The Last Woman of Warsaw*. Set in 1938 Warsaw, the story follows two Jewish women whose lives become intertwined as they navigate rising antisemitism while searching for love, purpose, and belonging. ***Moderated by local author Deborah Kalb.***

Books will be available for purchase, followed by a book signing.

Questions? Contact mblackman@benderjccgw.org; 301.348.3808

GALLERY EXHIBITS

The C&O Canal and America's Bicentennial September 14 - October 17

Gallery Reception | Wednesday, September 23
5:00 PM | Open to All

Currents of History: The C&O Canal & America's Bicentennial celebrates America's bicentennial through the story of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Curated by Jean Hirons and Joel Cohen, the exhibition features artwork, historic photographs, maps, sculpture, and archival materials exploring the canal's legacy, conservation, and the enduring connection between people, place, and history.



The Goldman Art Gallery is open when the Bender JCC is open.

Montgomery Art Association: Afterglow October 25 - December 14

Gallery Reception | Sunday, November 15 | 12:00 PM | Open to All

Afterglow explores the lasting presence of light, color, energy, and emotion after a powerful experience. Featuring luminous landscapes, vibrant night scenes, figurative work, abstraction, and contemporary interpretations of light and memory, the exhibition reflects on what endures after a moment has passed and the subtle traces of transformation that remain.



Questions? Contact mblackman@benderjccgw.org; 301.348.3808



October 11
4:30 PM
At the Bender JCC

GET TICKETS TODAY!



Get tickets at benderjccgw.org/bbq

CINEMA J

Once Upon My Mother | Thursday, October 15

5:30 PM | Opening Night | VIP Premium | \$52*

7:00 PM | Film & Talkback | \$25

1:30 PM | Matinee | Film Only | \$15

Heartwarming evening of film and conversation! *Once Upon My Mother* tells the true story of a Moroccan Jewish mother's fierce devotion as she helps her son overcome physical challenges in 1960s France.



Stay after the evening screening for a Q&A with Vanessa Chalme, granddaughter of the woman who inspired the film, and Georgetown Professor Jessica Roda, PhD, who studies the experiences of Jewish women and mothers.

*VIP tickets include a pre-screening reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, dessert, and premium theater seating.

We Met at Grossinger's | Thursday, November 5

6:30 PM | Reception, Film, & Talkback with Comedian **JUDY GOLD** | \$36

7:00 PM | Film & Talkback | \$25

1:30 PM | Matinee | Film Only | \$15

Travel back to the legendary Borscht Belt, a nostalgic look at the iconic Catskills resort that inspired *Dirty Dancing*.

Enjoy a dessert reception before the evening screening, then stay for a live talkback with comedy-powerhouse, actor, and documentary participant Judy Gold.



Did you meet your partner in the Catskills? We'd love to hear your story!

Questions? Contact Frieda: Fenoch@benderjccgw.org; 301-348-3809

CINEMA J

TATAMI | Tuesday, December 1

1:30 PM | Matinee | Film Only | \$15

7:00 PM | Film & Talkback | \$25



Co-directed by Israeli and Iranian filmmakers, *Tatami* is a gripping sports drama and political thriller.

The film follows an Iranian female judo champion ordered by her government to withdraw from the World Championships rather than face an Israeli opponent.

After the evening screening, stay for a talkback and Q&A with Iranian-American historian and *The Atlantic* contributor Arash Azizi on the film's themes of identity, political pressure, antisemitism, and resilience.

KNISHES (MOVIE) & CONVERSATION

Baseball Mensch:

The Marty Lurie Story

Thursday, November 12 | 12:30 PM | \$65

Entertaining, heartfelt, and laugh-out-loud funny, *Baseball Mensch: The Marty Lurie Story* celebrates the extraordinary life of beloved baseball broadcaster Marty Lurie. More than a baseball film, it's the story of a man devoted to justice, mentorship, and the power of sports to heal, unite, and inspire.



Join Brooklyn-born Marty Lurie in person for a post-film talkback and Q&A. Before the film, enjoy a kosher New York-style deli lunch featuring corned beef, pastrami, hot dogs, knishes, babka, black-and-white cookies, halvah, and more. Vegetarian options available.

Questions? Contact Frieda: Fenoch@benderjccgw.org; 301-348-3809

GRANDPARENTING

GRAND Cooking - Hanukkah

Sunday, November 29 | 2:00 PM

\$30/member | \$35/public

Cooking is a meaningful way to pass down family traditions—connecting generations through stories, flavors, and time together.

Celebrate the season by making sufganiyot (Hanukkah donuts) with your GRAND friends. This hands-on, multi-generational experience brings Jewish tradition to life through creativity, connection, and delicious food.

Each family will make donuts to enjoy and donate to Nourish Now, supporting neighbors in need.

Registration is per family. This event is best suited for children 3-6.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Fall Proof

Tuesday, September 8-October 13 | 10:30 AM

\$50/member | \$150/public

Improve balance, coordination, and confidence in everyday movement. This class begins with simple movement assessments to identify areas that may contribute to instability or fall risk. Participants then perform targeted exercises to strengthen the core and lower body while improving agility, reaction time, and body awareness. Using tools like agility ladders, stepping patterns, floor markers, and stability drills, members develop safer movement skills. The class also includes education on common causes of falls and practical strategies to help reduce risk and move with greater confidence.

Register and learn more at benderjccgw.org

**REGISTER AT BENDERJCCGW.ORG OR COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THIS FORM
TO BENDER JCC, ATTN: COA, 6125 MONTROSE RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852**

Canasta - \$180/member | \$200/public
 Mah Jongg - \$130/member | \$150/public
 Bridge - \$190/member | \$210/public
 Game, Date, and Time: _____ Due \$ _____

Sip & Share: Women Connect | Begins October 5 | 1:30 PM \$40 Due \$ _____

JCC'S Writer's Café | \$220/member | \$240/public Due \$ _____

J-Talks: AI Demystified | October 7, 14, 21, and 28 | 1:00 PM | \$80 Due \$ _____

Wine and Design Art With A Jewish Twist | Monday | October 5, November 2,
 December 7 | 6:30 PM | \$36/class | \$90/all 3 classes Due \$ _____

Seth Kibel & The Kleztet! Thursday, September 24 | 7:00 PM | \$52 Due \$ _____

Comedy with Joel Chasnoff | October 28 | 7:00 PM | \$52 Due \$ _____

Streisand Songbook | December 10 | 7:00 PM | \$52 Due \$ _____

Exploration, Elevated: Inside the New National Geographic Museum*
 Wednesday, September 30 | 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM | \$75 Due \$ _____

Some Like It Hot* | Thursday, October 22 | 7:30 PM | \$85 | Add Ride: \$50 Due \$ _____

Sarah Goodman Confinio | September 15 | 6:00 PM | \$25 | \$36+book Due \$ _____

Book Lovers Brunch | The Last Woman of Warsaw by Judy Batalion
 October 16 | 10:30 AM | \$36 Due \$ _____

Knishes (Movie) & Conversation | Baseball Mensch: The Marty Lurie Story
 November 12 | 12:30 PM | \$65 Due \$ _____

Once Upon My Mother | October 15 | 5:30 PM-VIP Premium-\$52
 7:00 - Film & Talkback-\$25 | 1:30 PM-Film Screening Only-\$15 | Option: ____ Due \$ _____

We Met At Grossinger's | November 5 | 7-9 PM-Dessert Reception, Film,
 Talkback-\$52 | Film & Talkback-\$25 | 1:30 PM - Film Screening Only-\$15 Due \$ _____

TATAMI | December 1 | 7:00 - 9:15 PM-Film & Talkback-\$25
 1:30 PM-Film Screening Only-\$15 | Option: _____ Due \$ _____

GRAND Cooking - Hanukkah | Sunday, November 29 | 2:00 PM
 \$30/member | \$35/public Due \$ _____

Fall Proof | Tuesday, September 8-October 13 | 10:30 AM
 \$50/member | \$150/public Due \$ _____

Continued on next page...

Name _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Yes, I want to support CoA's great programs year-round!!

Donor's name will be listed in the CoA publication for gifts of \$50 or more.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐\$18 ☐\$36 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$_____

Payment Options

1. Sign up online at benderjccgw.org
2. Drop off a check at the Bender JCC, along with the form in the previous page.
3. Call the contact person related to the program you would like sign up for (Listed at the bottom of the page)

If you have any questions, please contact fenoch@benderjccgw.org.

Refund Policy

To view our refund policy, visit benderjccgw.org/refunds.

**Please note that no refunds are granted for excursions.*

The Bender JCC of Greater Washington is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Bender JCC is also supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and other private sources.

Bender JCC arts programs are programs of the Gildenhorn/Speisman Center for the Arts





**Outstanding Performances from
World Renowned Musicians**

Brian Ganz

Piano

November 15 | 2:00 PM

Chee-Yun & Ellen Hwangbo

Violin & Piano

December 20 | 2:00 PM

Miró Quartet

String Quartet

January 31, 2027 | 2:00 PM

Merz Piano Trio

Piano Trio

March 21, 2027 | 2:00 PM

Sydney Lee and Noreen Cassidy-Polera

Cello & Piano

April 18, 2027 | 2:00 PM

Euclid Quartet & Adrian Daurov

String Quartet & Cello

May 23, 2027 | 2:00 PM

**FOR TICKETS, VISIT
[BENDERJCCGW.ORG/AOE](https://benderjccgw.org/aoe)**





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