Winter 2026-2027

Jewish Senior LIFE

Live and Learn Community Course Guide

With Appreciation

The Jewish Senior Life Live and Learn Community at Hechtman and Fleischman Apartments is supported by generous grants from Jewish Federation of Detroit and the Matthews Family Foundation.



What is JSL's Live and Learn Community?

Jewish Senior Life's award-winning Live and Learn Community is an exciting initiative that provides a range of university-level educational offerings right at Hechtman and Fleischman Apartments. Courses are taught by experts from world class institutions and cultural partners and presented in various formats to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Each course is designed to foster student engagement and community connection. Come join us to experience the joy of learning alongside others!

All classes will take place in the Hechtman 1 Activity Room.

whandler@jslmi.org

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Flying Masterpieces: The Art of the Postage Stamp

Few works of art enjoy as vast an audience as the art of American postage stamps. Join us for an armchair view of the earliest engraved stamps to contemporary commemorative offerings, including more than 20 artists seen at the Phoenix Art Museum. In this live-over-Zoom presentation, we will explore the art and artists that bring this medium to the masses, including noteworthy holiday stamps over the years. If you've ever mailed a letter, this talk is for you.

Instructor: This session will be presented by Lisa White, a Master Docent at the Phoenix Art Museum, where she took part in the training class of 2010. She is a retired schoolteacher, having taught English and social studies for 30 years in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Thursday, December 10 2 PM – 3 PM

One of America's Favorite Films: A Look Inside *It's a Wonderful Life*

Voted the most inspirational movie ever made by the American Film Institute, Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* has been a beloved holiday classic for many generations. The snowbound streets of Bedford Falls, the desperate travails of George Bailey, and the discovery of Zuzu's petals have become traditional signatures of the holiday season. Yet when the film was released in 1946, it was a box-office flop—until it was rediscovered through endless airings on local TV stations beginning in the 1970s. This live-over-Zoom talk will examine the fascinating story of this favorite holiday film, looking at the challenges of how it was made, its surprisingly dark portrait of small-town life, and how it became the ultimate portrayal of holiday goodwill and cheer.

Instructor: This class will be taught by Brian Rose, professor emeritus at Fordham University. His live Zoom lectures on film and TV history have been presented at the Smithsonian Institution, New York's 92Y and libraries and JCCs all over the country.

Thursday, December 24 2 PM - 3PM

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The Divine Miss M: The Music & Moxie of Bette Midler

Bette Midler has dazzled audiences for decades with her powerhouse voice, sharp wit, and larger-than-life personality. Affectionately known as the Divine Miss M, she gave us unforgettable hits like *The Rose, Wind Beneath My Wings*, and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,* along with iconic performances on stage and screen. Join us for a lively look at the extraordinary career, irreverent humor, and unmistakable talent of this one-of-a-kind entertainer!

Instructor: Gary Graff is an award-winning veteran music journalist based in Detroit. He is the author of several books and an active member of Adat Shalom Synagogue.

Thursday, December 31 2 PM - 3 PM

Wayne State University presents: Resilience and Positive Psychology

(Rescheduled from September)

Aging, like every stage of life, brings both challenges and exciting new possibilities. Join us for an afternoon with the former Director of Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology for an engaging look at resilience and the surprising strengths that often grow with age. Drawing on decades of research, we'll gather practical, uplifting insights on navigating challenges while embracing the unique gifts of later life.

Instructor: Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, distinguished psychologist and gerontologist, is an expert in the psychology of aging, resilience, and financial decision-making in later life. He has authored more than seven books, and is a past president of The Gerontological Society of America.

Thursday, January 14 2 PM - 3 PM

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And Away We Go:
A Look Back at the Early Days of TV Comedy

The first decade of American TV comedy was an extraordinary period of innovation and imagination. The era between the late 1940s to the late 1950s produced a remarkable range of distinctive programming: live comedy/variety shows like *The Texaco Star Theater* and *Your Show of Shows*, filmed situation comedies like *I Love Lucy* and *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet,* and late-night talk programs like *The Tonight Show*. Pioneering performers and creators like Sid Caesar, Lucille Ball, Jackie Gleason and Steve Allen helped shape a new visual language of comedy that influenced television for the next sixty years. Illustrated with dozens of clips, this live-over-Zoom lecture will also examine why this era produced more laughter than any other period in television history.

Instructor: This class will be taught by Brian Rose, professor emeritus at Fordham University. His live Zoom lectures on film and TV history have been presented at the Smithsonian Institution, New York's 92Y and libraries and JCCs all over the country.

Thursday, January 21 **2 PM - 3 PM**

Rembrandt Up Close:
A Life in Light and Shadow

Join us for a two-session journey into the life of Rembrandt, the miller's son from Leiden, whose joys, losses, and remarkable tenderness for the people he painted shaped some of the world's most beloved art. Together we'll spend time with his formal portraits, his searching self-portraits and his moving biblical scenes, discovering how the man and his art were woven together.

Instructor: Lisa Ngote is a Special Lecturer and Curator of Visual Resources at Oakland University, with both Bachelors and Masters degrees from Wayne State University.

Two Thursdays **2 PM - 3:15 PM**

February 11 and February 18

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Scorsese & DeNiro:
A Collaboration Fueled by Intensity

Director Martin Scorsese and actor Robert De Niro are two iconic pillars of the film industry who have shaped commercial filmmaking with their gritty, sometimes even dark, humor. From urban portrayals in films such as *Mean Streets* and *Taxi Driver*, professional sports as seen in *Raging Bull,* and organized crime as seen in *The Godfather, Casino*, and *The Irishman*, these collaborations stand out for their dark humor and cinematic craftsmanship. Don't miss this close-up discussion of two film greats.

Musicians: Max Alvarez is an author, film historian and public speaker who produces multimedia programs on world cinema culture in New York and on Zoom throughout the country. A visiting scholar and guest lecturer for The Smithsonian Associates, Alvarez is the former film curator at National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Thursday, February 25 **2 PM - 3PM**

This is YOUR Live and Learn Community
Your Program Suggestions Welcome!

The Live and Learn Community at Hechtman and Fleischman Apartments is created for you and inspired by the interests, experiencesand curiosity of our residents. If you have ideas for a course, a single presentation or any topic you would enjoy exploring together, please let Wendy Handler know. All suggestions are warmly welcomed, and resident input helps shape future programming. See Wendy when she's at Hechtman on Thursday afternoons or leave word for her with Ashley at Hechtman or Lisa or Gayle at Fleischman, and Wendy will be sure to contact you. Please let us hear from you!