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Media Contacts:

Jamie Winter
Winter Public Relations
jamie@winterpublicrelations.com
(720) 425-2580

Adam Zandman
JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center
azandman@jccdenver.org
(303) 316-6373

JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center Announces More than a Dozen Jewish Arts and Culture Events with Social Justice Theme Through 13th Annual Neustadt Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies and Music Festival

JAAMM Festival held virtually kicking off Oct. 22, 2020 through Summer 2021

DENVER, Colo., October 6, 2020 – The [JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center](#) is kicking off its 2020-2021 season full of arts and culture events through the 13th Annual Neustadt JAAMM Festival. The festival will bring nationally and globally recognized figures in arts and culture to homes across Colorado through entirely virtual content.

“This year JAAMM Festival has a social justice focus,” said Amy Weiner Weiss, Director of Festivals at the JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center. “Many of our events will touch on topical issues to help facilitate important dialogues that we, as a community, should be having.”

Headline events will happen quarterly and include:

- **Sunday, October 25 at 6 p.m. MST – A pre-election roundtable discussion** – one week prior to election day – moderated by **Emily Bazelon**, writer of *The New York Times Magazine* and co-host of the Slate podcast, Political Gabfest; featuring Emmy Award-winning journalist, writer and attorney **Ari Melber**; **Astead Herndon** from *The New York Times*; and **Harry Enten** from CNN
- **Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. MST** – Canadian sketch comedy duo **Yid Life Crisis** will host a live show called “**Virtually Jewish**”
- **Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. MST** – **African American Jewish food historian and James Beard award-winning author Michael Twitty** will host an interactive lecture in advance of Passover about the shared narratives of diaspora and exodus between the African American and Jewish communities

“We are excited to introduce a unique lineup of guests who are diverse in backgrounds and content,” said Weiner Weiss. “We’ve curated an entire season of programming with thematic threads of content that connect various events with each other. This connection is meant to help engage people year-round, through both our JAAMM Festival and our annual Denver Jewish Film Festival that will be held in February.”

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In addition to headline events, the festival includes several author lectures courtesy of Jewish Book Council, including:

- **Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm MST – Author Jamie Bernstein**, daughter of Leonard Bernstein, who wrote a memoir titled ‘Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein’
- **Thursday, November 19, 7:00 pm MST – Jessica Yellin**, former CNN Chief White House Correspondent and author of ‘Savage News’
- **Thursday, December 17, 7:00 pm MST – Boulder-based author R.L. Maizes** whose debut novel is called ‘Other People’s Pets’
- **Thursday, January 21, 2021, 12:00 pm MST– London-based author Ariana Neumann** who wrote a second generation holocaust memoir titled, “When Time Stopped: A Memoir of My Father's War and What Remains”
- **Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7:00 pm MST – Author of ‘The Third Daughter’ Talia Carner** about the sex trafficking of young Jewish women from Russia to South America in the 19th century
- **Sunday, April 18, 2021, 7:00 pm MST – Author Sue Eisenfeld** with memoir/travelogue “Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South”
- **Thursday, May 20, 2021 – Amy Fish author** of “I Wanted Fries With That: How to Ask For What You Want and Get What You Need”
- **Thursday, June 17, 2021 – Jo Ivester author** of “Once a Girl, Always a Boy,” a family memoir about her transgender son

“Through our support of the JAAMM Festival, we are continuing the legacy of literature and culture that that means so much to the Neustadt Family,” said Kathy Neustadt, whose Piñon Trail Foundation is the title sponsor of the festival. “While this year’s events look different than in year’s past, we are excited to see how the community engages with the content we have curated especially for our community.”

Additional events include:

- **April 7, 2021 at 7 p.m. MST – Israeli chef, cookbook author, and restaurateur of NYC’s Balaboosta and NYC/Washington D.C.’s Taim, Chef Einat Admony** will be joining the community virtually for a cook-along, where viewers will prepare a springtime three-course meal with her.
- **Thursday, December 3 - Wednesday, December 9** – Video on demand of ‘TransKids,’ an Israeli documentary following four transgender kids coming of age

Ticket prices are as follows: Headline events are \$18 per household. All other events are \$12 per household. To view the full festival lineup and to purchase tickets to the virtual events, visit jccdenver.org/jaamm.

ABOUT JCC MIZEL ARTS AND CULTURE CENTER

As one of the Rocky Mountain region’s premier arts organizations, the [JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center](#) illuminates the human experience through creative and cultural programs in the performing, visual, cinematic and literary arts for the Jewish community and the Denver community at-large. The Mizel Arts and Culture Center is a Tier II member of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and is guided by a mission that is focused specifically on arts and cultural programs. A variety of festivals are offered throughout the year including Denver Jewish Film Festival, JAAMM Fest (Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies and Music Fest), and

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ReelAbilities Film Festival. The JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center is located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit www.jccdenver.org/arts-culture or call 303-316-6360.

ABOUT STAENBERG-LOUP JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The [Staenberg – Loup Jewish Community Center](http://www.jccdenver.org) (JCC Denver) serves the metro-Denver area through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs that are rooted in Jewish values. The JCC Denver’s mission is to create a vibrant and inclusive family and social gathering place, guided by these timeless Jewish values. The JCC Denver’s four program areas focus on connection, community and well-being and include: a robust fitness, sports, tennis and aquatic center; Early Childhood Engagement, including an Early Learning School and a variety of programs for families; the Mizel Arts and Culture Center which offers Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies & Music Festival (JAAMM Fest), Denver Jewish Film Festival, and ReelAbilities Film Festival; summer camps including Ranch Camp and Camp Shai; engagement programming for teens, young adults, seniors and the LGBTQ+ community. The JCC Denver is located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit www.jccdenver.org, like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jccdenver) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/jccdenver) @jccdenver or call (303) 399-2660.

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