



THE LAURA & ALVIN SIEGAL  
LIFELONG LEARNING  
PROGRAM

# Jewish Explorations

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## NEW COLUMN AND NEW COURSE

Dear Friends!

I'm excited to launch this weekly newsletter to keep you updated on the lively events that we have going on at CWRU-Siegel Lifelong Learning. I'll also be using this column to share what I learn through my own explorations of the Jewish world.

When I was an unfettered graduate student, my research took me to the silk route cities of Samarkand and Bukhara (you can see the book that resulted [here](#)). These days I stay closer to my home in Beachwood, OH and am following the tradition of other cultural anthropologists who find material of interest in their own back yards. I'll use this column to report on my current research on Jewish congregations in Western Pennsylvania's rust belt, and the way they are contending with the implications of the region's dwindling population.

At CWRU-Siegel, I also had the opportunity to weigh in on trending Jewish social issues in the monthly program I ran in 2017-2018 with Brian Amkraut, "Tribe Talk: New Jewish Conversations."

At the moment, Brian and I are on a break from "Tribe Talk" as we tinker with the model. In its stead I'll be offering "Hot and Current in the American Jewish Media." The news cycle changes so quickly these days. Still a few issues persist with regularity in American Jewish media outlets. Join me for this macro analysis and discussion of issues including American Jews' changing relationship with Israel, trends in anti-Semitism, declining membership in formal institutions, growing political and religious divides in with the community, and – my favorite – the emergence of new Jewish cultural forms. [Click here](#) to register for this course.

I look forward to seeing you soon at CWRU-Siegel!

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