

CWRU's Siegal Lifelong Learning and Ohio River Valley Anti-Defamation League launch Bridging Histories, Building Futures Program

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CLEVELAND, OH — Siegal Lifelong Learning at Case Western Reserve University has launched a new partnership with the Ohio River Valley Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to counter misinformation and promote understanding. The collaboration introduces a program designed to provide historical context, deepen public awareness, and foster constructive dialogue across communities. The partnership debuts with a new course, [Bridging Histories, Building Futures: Black–Jewish Dialogue & Coalition](#) led by **Dr. Kelly Fishman** and **Harriette Watford Lowenthal, M.Ed.** which will be held on Thursdays, January 22 and 29 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Siegal Lifelong Learning, 25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood. The course explores key moments of Black–Jewish cooperation—from 19th century abolitionist alliances to the activism of Freedom Summer and Selma—and examines how these histories inform responses to contemporary antisemitism and anti-Black racism.

Ted Evans, Executive Director of Siegal Lifelong Learning, emphasized the impact of the new partnership, “Siegal Lifelong Learning is transforming classrooms into spaces where global understanding begins.” **Dr. Dafna Ben Yosef**, Director of Jewish Lifelong Learning, continued by stating the importance of education in community awareness, “education is one of the strongest tools we have to build bridges and close gaps of historical knowledge. The partnership with ADL and the programs cultivate understanding that makes division far more difficult to sustain.”

Dr. Kelly Fishman, ADL Regional Director, underscored the urgency of the initiative, “this partnership between Siegal Lifelong Learning and the ADL is more than a course collaboration—it offers a valuable educational opportunity. By studying moments when Black and Jewish communities marched together for justice—and honestly confronting periods of tension—we rebuild trust and forge lasting coalitions.”

In addition to this initial program in partnership with the ADL, Siegal will be hosting additional programs this spring:

- [Beyond the Border: Immigration Rights in the U.S. and Ohio](#) will be held on Wednesday, February 4, taught by attorneys **Stacy Cozart Martin, J.D.**, and **Daniel Natalie, J.D.**, presented in conjunction with the *El Sueño Americano / The American Dream* exhibition at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.
- [Law to Atrocity and Back: The Legal Foundations and Aftermath of the Holocaust](#) (March 6–27), taught by **Professor Cathy Lesser Mansfield**. This course examines the legal and jurisprudential aspects of the Nazi regime and its aftermath.
- [Interwoven Journeys: Three Crossroads in Black–Jewish History \(March 11–25\)](#), led by **Dr. Steven Chervin**, examining how racial narratives and exclusionary ideologies shaped both communities over time.

Siegal Lifelong Learning at Case Western Reserve University provides accessible, academically rigorous, and socially relevant educational programs for adult learners across Greater Cleveland and beyond. To learn more and register for upcoming programs, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning or contact **Dr. Dafna Ben Yosef**, Director, Jewish Lifelong Learning at dafna.benyosef@case.edu or **216.368.5686**.