

Ted Merwin Presents:

Where Harry Met Sally: The Delectable History of the New York Jewish Deli

Sunday, April 24th—7:00 pm on ZOOM



For much of the 20th century, the New York Jewish deli was an iconic institution in both Jewish and American life, a kind of homeland for the soul, with pickles on the side. As a social space, it rivaled the synagogue as the primary gathering place for the Jewish community. Today, after decades of decline, the deli is experiencing a nostalgic resurgence. In addition, delis are featured in a plethora of plays, films, TV shows, songs, and stand-up routines. From John Belushi's "Samurai Deli" skit on *SNL* to Rob Reiner's late-1980s romantic comedy, "When Harry Met Sally," the deli and its fare have been embraced by Jews and non-Jews alike as a delicious emblem of Jewish culture in America.

Ted Merwin, Ph.D. is a Senior Writer for the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Before coming to JFNA, he worked as AIPAC's Synagogue Initiative Director for the Mid-Atlantic Region. For many years, Ted taught Judaic studies at Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA), where he directed the Milton B. Asbell Center for Jewish Life. He is the author of "Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli," which won a National Jewish Book Award, and "In Their Own Image: New York Jews in Jazz Age Popular Culture." He lives in Baltimore with his wife and three daughters.

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