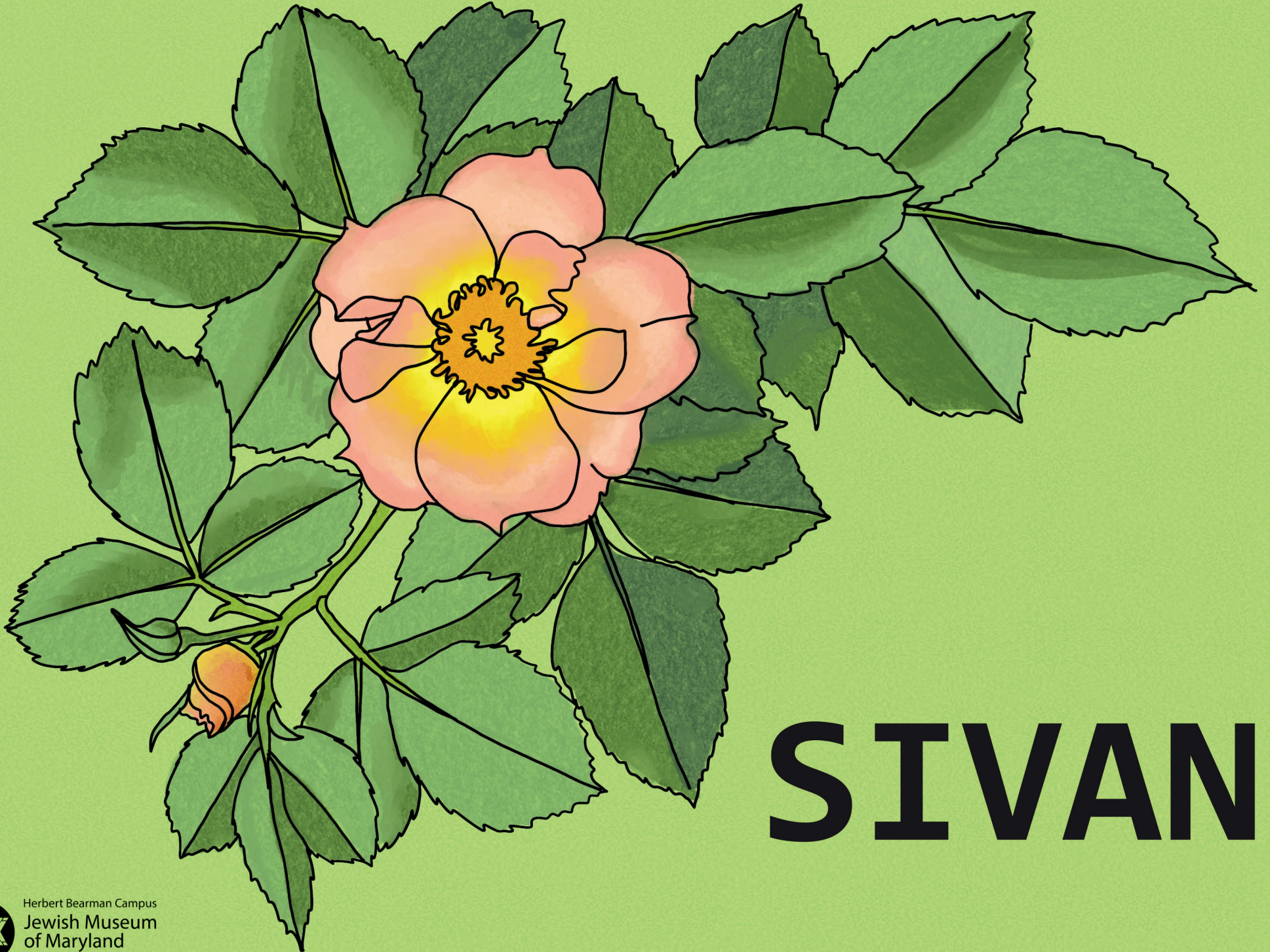


Rose by Katie Andril



SIVAN



Herbert Bearman Campus
Jewish Museum
of Maryland
An agency of The Associated

SIVAN

June 7 - July 6, 2024

This is the eleventh edition of a monthly zine by the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

In each issue, we share content about the holidays, rituals, and ideas related to the current month in the Jewish calendar. This month's zine focuses on the Hebrew month of Sivan.

You can pick up physical copies of the zine in the Lombard and Lloyd Library. Lombard and Lloyd Library is located on the grassy corner of the JMM campus at the intersection of Lombard and Lloyd Streets.

We hope to provide space for people at the JMM and beyond to share their thoughts and creations as they relate to where we are in the Hebrew calendar.



[jewishmuseummd](#)



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[jewishmuseummd.org](#)



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This year, in the Northern Hemisphere, Sivan marks the end of spring, the start of summer, and the summer solstice! Sivan welcomes revelation, reopening, and relearning. Like a blossoming flower, Sivan welcomes us to open up and learn something new!

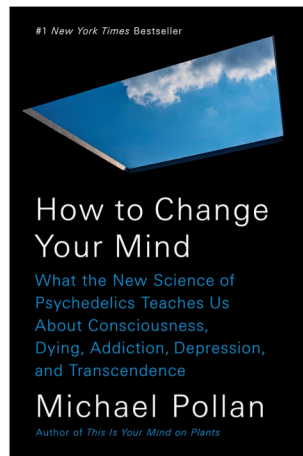
Sivan starts with Shavuot, a holiday devoted to collective learning. Shavuot is sort of like a time machine, with rituals recalling the revelation of the Torah, the Hebrew Bible, on Mt. Sinai. Jewish tradition teaches that every soul who was, is, or will be Jewish was present at the foot of Mt. Sinai at the time of receiving Torah. Many Jewish communities celebrate Shavuot by staying up late and teaching and studying Torah together.

- What has Sivan taught you so far?
- What do you hope to learn during Sivan?
- What do you hope to teach during Sivan?

This month's zine features artwork, personal reflections, book recommendations and a DIY art project inspired by the month of Sivan.

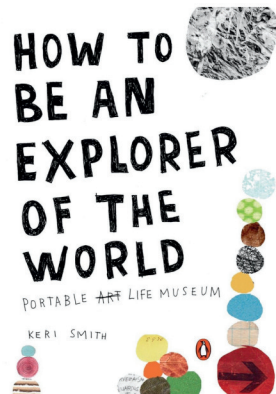
LEARN SOMETHING NEW FOR SIVAN!

With Shavuot and summertime, Sivan is a great time to crack open a book and learn something new. Check out these nonfiction book recommendations from the JMM staff.



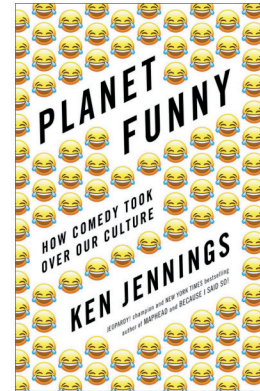
How to Change Your Mind:
What the New Science of
Psychedelics Teaches Us
About Consciousness, Dying,
Addiction, Depression, and
Transcendence

by Michael Pollan



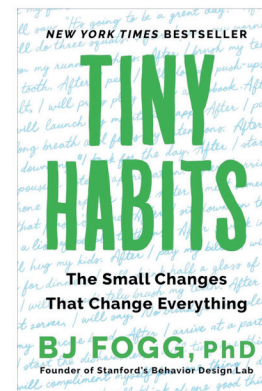
How to Be an Explorer
of the World:
Portable Life Museum

by Keri Smith



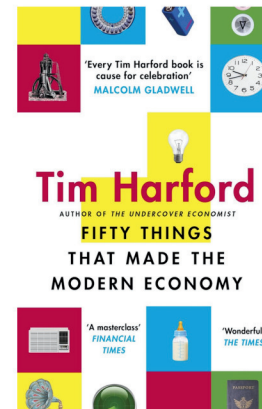
Planet Funny: How comedy
took over our culture

by Ken Jennings



Tiny Habits: Small Changes
That Change Everything

by BJ Fogg, PhD



Fifty Things that made the
Modern Economy

by Tim Harford

“HAVING JEWISH SPACE TATTOOED ONTO MY BODY REMINDS ME THAT JEWISH SPACE IS MY SPACE.”

Reflection by Noam Efron (he /they)

Tattoo Artist: Gus Graves (@roachparade)

Photos provided by Noam Efron

Growing up, it felt like there was no space for me in my Jewish community. Always wearing the dresses that were a little too short for shul, asking the questions my rabbi never liked and his answers were never satisfactory.

I had my small rebellions, turning on a bathroom light at my Rabbi's, tearing the edge of Adon Olam in my siddur. And when I moved 3,000 miles away for college, Shabbos became Saturday.

While college brought me new avenues of secularism, and the expected adventures of a city art school, my twin sister, Jody, had become a pillar in her small town college's Jewish community. She led Hillel services, participated in inter-faith panels, and was the president of her college's Jewish community center. We were proud of each other and quickly realized we were learning from each other.



I watched Jody unapologetically make space for people like me in her community and I slowly learned that people like me could be Jewish.

When I told Jody I missed Judaism, she enthusiastically helped me find resources and communities in Baltimore. Baltimore had already helped me find my queerness and confidence, and with the help of my beloved sister, it became the city that I found Judaism in.

I wanted to honor that connection with a tattoo, and began researching Baltimore's Jewish history.

I quickly learned about and then toured Lloyd Street and B'nai Israel Synagogues. The architectural charm and colorful stained glass windows were ripe for tattoo design. Ultimately the tattoo design I chose was colorful and playful, some may even say child-like.

To me, these tattoos are an offering to little Noam, who never felt comfortable in Jewish spaces.

Having Jewish space tattooed onto my body reminds me that Jewish space is my space.



MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER CUT!

Papercut is an artwork made by cutting illustrations into paper. Paper-cut artwork has been intertwined with Jewish culture since the medieval era. In his poem, “The Fight of the Pen and the Scissors,” Rabbi Shem Tov ben Isaac ben Arduziel described how his inkwell froze solid due to the winter cold and he continued his manuscript by cutting the letters out of the paper with a knife. While this poem from the 1400s is often cited as evidence of papercutting in Jewish culture, it has also been interpreted as a commentary on medieval politics.

However, it's important to note that Rabbi Shem Tov did not originate papercutting. This art form had already flourished in China for nearly a millennium before his time, dating back to around 500 CE. Considering that paper was a Chinese invention, it's logical that Chinese artists would have explored paper cutting as an artistic expression over the centuries. There is a Shavuot tradition of creating papercut artworks in the shape of roses called Royzelach, which means roses in Yiddish.

Try making your own by cutting out the template on the next page!

1. Cut out the template on the blue lines
2. Fold along the dotted black line.
3. Using scissors or x-acto knife, cut out the solid pink shapes and letters.
4. Unfold and enjoy!

