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IRENE SHALAND'S LECTURE

Unknown Gems of the Mediterranean Jewish History: Malta and Corsica

Sunday

October 6th

2019

2:00 PM

Avadim hayinu le-parashim be-Malta. We were horsemen's slaves in Malta," from the 17th century Passover Haggadah, Venice.

"I can recognize my native island just by the fragrance of the maquis." Napoleon about Corsica and its wild flowers.



The Malta archipelago, a miniscule spot in the middle of the Mediterranean, still remains unknown to most US travelers. And this is a pity, because if you do visit Malta, you will be forever inspired and spiritually enriched by the magical beauty of this gem that remains still-hidden for many. And don't be fooled by Malta's size: this tiny nation packs an extraordinary amount of history, including Jewish history, into its three compact islands: Malta, Gozo, and Comino. From Israelites sailing there with Phoenicians three thousand years ago, to the first Jewish traveler, a Biblical Paul, arriving in Malta in the 1st century CE, thorough the dark times of slavery during the Knights of St. John's rule in the 16th century, to today's small but blossoming community – Maltese Jewish history manifests a fascinating trajectory still under- the-radar for most historians.

Like Malta, Corsica, the "Island of beauty," as the French call it, is not on the vacation map for many American globe-trotters. Yet Corsica's chic seaside resorts and its untamed natural magnificence are arguably the Mediterranean's best. The island's Jewish narrative reveals an irony of Omerta (Mafia's code of silence) that led many Corsicans to risk their lives in saving thousands of Jews fleeing the Nazi-occupied mainland France to escape deportation and death.

Travel with Irene Shaland through these islands to learn the captivating stories of Malta and Corsica she brings to her audiences.

Reservations Required: Call 845-634-4997, ext. 139.

[New City Library 220 N. Main Street, New City, New York 10956](#)
