

# ALBANY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

## AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC & AMERICAN HISTORY

**2019** Wednesdays 1 – 3pm

May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 12

Instructor: Robert Wells

Albany JCC's Massry Senior Center

\$66 \$56 JCC Member

Prepaid registration required before class fills.

Americans have composed and sung songs about what has mattered in their lives. We will survey some favorite folk songs and some less known works, tracing the relationship of songs to people's lives. We will examine the historical context from which the songs emerged, see what lyrics can tell us about the past and view how songs evolved over time. Some themes include: work and the labor movement, religion, railroads and transportation, war, family, migration and 'hard times and hard men'.

Robert Wells accompanies himself on guitar while singing the folk songs.



**Professor Emeritus Robert Wells**  
taught American History at Union College, 1969 – 2013.  
He is the author of seven books, including  
*Life Flows On in Endless Song:*  
*Folk Songs and American History (2009).*



**SIDNEY ALBERT ALBANY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

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