



## The Taste of Jewish Culture, Upcoming Programs, Shul Visits and More – March 20, 2023

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### THE TASTE OF JEWISH CULTURE



**A Land of Milk and Mufletta: At the Crossroads of Israel's Cuisine and Culture**  
Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

Please join us as we continue our online exploration of Jewish food traditions and the historical connections between Jews and food with Jewish Food researcher Joel Haber. Israeli chefs have recently conquered the culinary world, but what about all those foods they left behind at home? What do these dishes say about Israel itself? From falafel to petitim, meorav Yerushalmi to mufletta, Joel reveals the culture behind the distinctive foods that make Israel so deliciously... Israeli.

More information - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/the-taste-of-jewish-culture/>

Registration - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-taste-of-jewish-culture-tickets-460627538367>

### CSP

We are pleased to be a partner congregation of the Orange County Jewish **Community Scholar Program (CSP)**. Please join us at an upcoming program!



**How To Read the Bible: Maimonides vs. Spinoza**

Tuesday, March 21, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Should every passage of the Hebrew Bible be read literally? Is the Bible a source of not just religious inspiration but historical, scientific and theological truths? These are questions on which two of the greatest Jewish philosophers ever — Maimonides and Spinoza, both arch-rationalists — disagreed. Spinoza, in fact, explicitly criticizes Maimonides over his account of the interpretation of Scripture, making a comparison of the two thinkers especially interesting.

**Steven Nadler** is the Vilas Research Professor and William H. Hay II Professor of Philosophy at the

University of Wisconsin-Madison. His books include *Think Least of Death: Spinoza on How to Live and How to Die* (Princeton, 2020), *A Book Forged in Hell: Spinoza's Scandalous Treatise and the Birth of the Secular Age* (Princeton, 2011), *The Philosopher, the Priest and the Painter: A Portrait of Descartes* (Princeton, 2013), *Spinoza: A Life* (Cambridge, 1999; 2nd ed. 2018; winner of the Koret Jewish Book Award for Biography), and *Rembrandt's Jews* (Chicago, 2003, which was named a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction). He also published, with his son Ben Nadler, the graphic book *Heretics! The Wondrous (and Dangerous) Beginnings of Modern Philosophy* (Princeton, 2017). He has been a visiting professor at Stanford University, the University of Chicago, the University of Amsterdam, the Ecole des hautes études en science sociales (Paris), and the Ecole normale supérieure (Paris). He has also been a scholar-in-residence at the American Academy in Rome. His biography of Menasseh ben Israel was published in the "Jewish Lives" series (Yale University Press) in the fall of 2018. In 2020 he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-2vrz4pHdyPGQqUymv3zHuOs6cEMlvX?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=6153f1e45e-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-6153f1e45e-386548940](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-2vrz4pHdyPGQqUymv3zHuOs6cEMlvX?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=6153f1e45e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-6153f1e45e-386548940)

### **Judaica: A Love Affair with Non-Jewish Culture**

Thursday, March 23, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

While Jewish ritual objects and images are most surely "Jewish", in most instances the source of style and image that define them have roots in the non-Jewish world. Join us for examples of this phenomenon from the private collection of renowned Judaica collector William Gross.

American by birth and Israeli by choice since 1969 and with degrees from Harvard University in History and Business, **William Gross** has been a collector, researcher, cataloger, writer, lecturer, appraiser and advisor in the field of Judaica objects of Jewish historical and ritual interest for over 60 years. William has served as an official appraiser for more than 15,000 objects in both public museum and private collections and many more than that have passed through his hands. He has written more than 30 contributions to books and journals and lectures widely on many topics regarding his view of Judaic objects not just as aesthetic creations but as documents illuminating Jewish history. The Gross Family Collection has been represented in more than 170 public exhibitions throughout the world.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqduqqrz0oGtxl6n0uVfslSnuWNMErePqb?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=6153f1e45e-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-6153f1e45e-386548940](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqduqqrz0oGtxl6n0uVfslSnuWNMErePqb?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=6153f1e45e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-6153f1e45e-386548940)

### **Protests, Identity and Israel at 75 – Behind the Scenes of What's Happening Now in Israel**

Sunday, March 26, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

What are the deep issues that are stirring the current situation in Israel and coming to the surface? How is what we're seeing now a reflection of the changes happening over the last three decades? What might be possible outcomes of the current situation (in Israel, in relation to the international community), and what does this mean to the future of the state? Over the last three decades major changes have transformed the Jewish religious and social field in Israel, facilitating the liquidation of traditional barriers and the formation of novel ways of conceiving and expressing Jewish identity. Secular Zionism has lost its cultural and social hegemony, while Religious Zionism, at first evincing a triumphant settler movement, has lost its ideological center, and now holds power without a vision. Meanwhile the Ultra-Orthodox are going through a process of Israelization, making them more integrated and also more nationalistic. We shall analyze and understand the many and varied Jewish voices emerging today in Israel, and how the two major political camps in the state, the Secular-Liberal and Traditional-Populist, fit both into the global populist wave and the conflicting dynamics of Jewish identity in Israel.

**Dr. Tomer Persico** is a Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, a Rubinstein Fellow at Reichman University and a Senior Research Scholar at the UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Between 2018 and 2021 he was the Koret Visiting Assistant Professor at the UC Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies. His fields of expertise include contemporary spirituality, Jewish modern identity, Jewish renewal, and forms of secularization and religiosity in Israel. His first book, *The Jewish Meditative Tradition* (Hebrew) was published by Tel Aviv University Press, and his second book, *In God's Image: the Making of the Modern West* (Hebrew) was published by Yedioth.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-mvqzkuHdxQy59OrDLKgXnrc-OQfFLY?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=d5fc8d6393-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-d5fc8d6393-386548940](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-mvqzkuHdxQy59OrDLKgXnrc-OQfFLY?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=d5fc8d6393-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-d5fc8d6393-386548940)



Yad Chessed helps Jewish individuals and families who struggle with financial hardship pay their bills and buy food. As a social services agency rooted in the Jewish values of kindness (chessed) and charity (tzedakah), they are committed to helping those in need navigate a path toward financial stability while preserving their privacy and dignity. They provide emergency financial assistance, grocery gift cards and compassionate advice for those trying to make ends meet. Hundreds of families and individuals throughout the state rely on Yad Chessed to provide for their essentials, and even at times, a Jewish burial for a loved one. Members of our community, as well as others in the Jewish community, who need assistance may contact Yad Chessed by phone at 781-487-2693 or by Email

at [intake@yadchessed.org](mailto:intake@yadchessed.org) for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to [info@yadchessed.org](mailto:info@yadchessed.org).

**Support Yad Chessed** - <https://givebutter.com/yadchessed>

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### CJP Plan to Combat Antisemitism

Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) has developed a five-point plan to combat rising antisemitism in Massachusetts. They are seeking stories for their mobilization campaign to fight back. If you have experienced antisemitism in any form at any time, join them and say enough is enough! Stories can be of any length and can be submitted anonymously.

**Learn more and submit your story** - [https://ma.cjp.org/antisemitism-initiative?utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=242516332&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8pIPFwRIOAngV1FjDVXXelE7CFvNOeLiBRY3cKJdYxA4Bkf52EYo8gyeKxNbFERCrdGShgPq2isWbm1yEdUnY1F2anzQ&utm\\_content=242516332&utm\\_source=hs\\_email#form](https://ma.cjp.org/antisemitism-initiative?utm_medium=email&hsmi=242516332&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8pIPFwRIOAngV1FjDVXXelE7CFvNOeLiBRY3cKJdYxA4Bkf52EYo8gyeKxNbFERCrdGShgPq2isWbm1yEdUnY1F2anzQ&utm_content=242516332&utm_source=hs_email#form)

## SHUL VIDEO

In the below video you will learn about the history of our historic shul and see all of our distinguishing elements on a virtual tour. This video is narrated by Dr. Samuel Gruber and was created by CSP as the first video in their Art and Architecture Series.

**Video** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxIW8IOLfyg>

## VISIT

If you live in the Boston area and have never seen our historic shul or if you plan to visit the area, we welcome you to see our shul in person and take a tour! For more information, please follow the link below.

**Visitor Information** - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/visit/>

## SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

Do you have milestones such as marriages, births, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, special birthdays, graduations, etc. to share with our synagogue family? If so, please submit details to [central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com](mailto:central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com) to be included in our weekly announcements. Photos are welcome!

## VOLUNTEER

Do you have time to volunteer and help us grow? Please complete our Volunteer Interest Form. <https://form.jotform.com/202885558815165>

## GIVING

Please visit our Giving page to send tributes, recognize yahrzeits and make other general donations to support the synagogue. Donations can be made online or through the mail. <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/giving/>

## VISIT US ONLINE

Website

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/>

Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<https://www.facebook.com/WalnutStreetSynagogue>

Facebook Group - Jews of Chelsea, MA Then and Now

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChelseaJews>



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