



The Taste of Jewish Culture, Upcoming Programs, Shul Visits and More – March 27, 2023

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!



The Ultimate Modern Illuminated Haggadah – A Conversation with Artist Leon Fenster
Tuesday, March 28, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

As a Jewish artist who sees himself as a visual storyteller, it is not surprising that Leon Fenster has, in recent years, become rather obsessed with Judaism's ultimate storytelling vehicle, the Haggadah. Following on from the success of his earlier *Beijing Haggadah*, Fenster is finally ready to share with the world his ultimate illuminated Haggadah which has been in the works for several years and is now close to completion. It is a book bursting with detail and meaning on every page, capable of revealing new insights year after year and staggeringly ambitious in its breadth. In the pages of this new work of art,

Jewish superheroes meet Freudian psychologists, artistic depictions of Jerusalem through the ages collide to create a new city, characters from famous Haggadot through history join forces, and a pyramid of matzah boxes from around the world gives us an insight into the cutthroat new world of global Matzah mass-production. The illuminations meander between the comical, the profound and the personal. Join us for a journey through this new expansive work with designer and artist, Leon Fenster, in conversation with Prof. Marc Michael Epstein.

Leon Fenster is an artist from London, based in China. His art joyfully re-imagines and reinvents the familiar, taking the viewer on whimsical journeys through real and imagined cities, family histories, alternative architectural worlds and midrashic Jewish stories. Widely exhibited, his art form emerges from a combination of his love of storytelling, architecture, community building and Jewish ritual and music. Fenster has been interested in illustrating the essence of the Jewish Diaspora since he was in college. Trained as an architect at University College London, he won a Presidential Medal Award given by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2014 for his drawings on how synagogues should reflect the Jewish diasporic condition. In 2015 he moved to Beijing as a scholar in residence at Tsinghua University, where he drew his first non-architectural drawing: a Haggadah concept.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpfuqtpzkrGNBKeGbZZ3bYDRORSMSIMHxj?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=1fea2e3b98-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-1fea2e3b98-386548940#/registration

The Fourth Plague – Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My

Wednesday, March 29, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

What exactly was the plague of Arov? Why is it the only plague referred to as a miracle? And what about it made it the critical turning point of the Exodus story? Exploring the fourth plague of Arov in light of biblical, rabbinic, and medieval literature, Egyptian mythology, Christian commentaries, and Haggadah art.

Gila Fine is a teacher of Aggadah at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, exploring the tales of the Talmud through philosophy, literary criticism, psychoanalysis, and pop-culture. She is also a faculty member of the London School of Jewish studies, the Nachshon Project, and Amudim Seminary, and has taught thousands of students at conferences and communities across the Jewish world. Gila's dynamic literary method and unique intertextual approach, ranging from folktales to fiction to film, bringing the stories of the Talmud to life and revealing their relevance for our time. *Haaretz* has called her "a young woman on her way to becoming one of the more outstanding Jewish thinkers of the next generation."

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdOGsqzosHdxzsaPI1S1vo40EGd5SAHCy?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=1fea2e3b98-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-1fea2e3b98-386548940#/registration

The Jewish American Paradox – Embracing Choice in a Changing World

Thursday, March 30, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Who should count as Jewish in America? What should be the relationship of American Jews to Israel? Can the American Jewish community collectively sustain and pass on to the next generation a sufficient sense of Jewish identity? The situation of American Jews today is deeply paradoxical. Jews have achieved unprecedented integration, influence, and esteem in virtually every facet of American life. But this extraordinarily diverse community now also faces four critical and often divisive challenges: rampant intermarriage, weak religious observance, diminished cohesion in the face of waning anti-Semitism, and deeply conflicting views about Israel. Can the American Jewish community collectively sustain and pass on to the next generation a sufficient sense of Jewish identity in light of these challenges? Who should count as Jewish in America? What should be the relationship of American Jews to Israel? Join us on March 30th for a special CSP event with Prof. Robert Mnookin celebrating the paperback publication of his book, *The Jewish American Paradox: Embracing Choice in a Changing World*.

Robert H. Mnookin is the Samuel Williston Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, the Chair of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, and the Director of the Harvard Negotiation Research Project. A leading scholar in the field of conflict resolution, Professor Mnookin has applied his interdisciplinary approach to negotiation and conflict resolution to a remarkable range of problems, both public and private. Prof. Mnookin began teaching law at Boalt Hall, U.C. Berkeley, in 1972 and was on the

Stanford faculty from 1981 until 1993. He has been a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford University; a visiting professor of law at Columbia Law School; and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Before joining the Harvard faculty, he was the Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law at Stanford Law School and the Director of the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation. Professor Mnookin has written or edited nine books and numerous scholarly articles. His books include – *The Jewish American Paradox*, *Bargaining with the Devil*, *Beyond Winning: Negotiating to Create Value in Deals and Disputes* (with Scott Peppet and Andrew Tulumello) and *Negotiating on Behalf of Others*.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsc-mgrzstHNXjhMf12NiMmjxdeyKWuoYZ?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=1fea2e3b98-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-1fea2e3b98-386548940#/registration

Jewish Tunisia – At a Crossroads of Civilization

Sunday, April 2, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Tunisia, the former seat of Cartaghe's empire, has been home to different Jewish communities for more than 2000 years. Its central location at a crossroads of civilizations led to multiple influences in food, culture, language and identity. Our speaker, Rafram Chaddad will take us through the different elements of the complex Jewish layer of Tunisia, which took a fateful turn in 1967 after the Six-Day War. He will talk about how Jewish life looks today in Tunisia and about his work as a visual artist, which blends biography and Jewish identity in contemporary Tunisia.

Rafram Chaddad (b. 1976) was born on Djerba, an island off the coast of southern Tunisia and grew up in Jerusalem where he completed his art studies. Since 2005 he has been working on his art practice mostly between Europe, Israel and based in Tunisia for the last 8 years. In 2010, while working on a Jewish heritage project in Libya, which focused on documenting the remains of Jewish Libyan communities, he was kidnapped by the Libyan secret police and was held for six months in the notorious Abu Salim prison. Later on, Chaddad wrote an account of his incarceration titled *Rafram's Guide to the Libyan Prison*, published with Am Oved publishing. Since 2019, he has been conducting research for *Leftovers*, an upcoming book investigating how food practices in cities formerly occupied by the Ottoman Empire are inter-connected. The book highlights recipes particular to each place and oral histories around food-making that challenge the nationalization of food and encourage us to approach food as a shared experience. Rafram's work reflects on his personal life experiences and comments on broader socio-political issues including migration and displacement, identity and belonging. Over the past twenty years, he's created dozens of short films and installations, which have exhibited worldwide in cultural institutions, galleries, and museums.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdOGuqT0oGtfV0e7TE3X0f1OVX4Nh7reV?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=7eddd144e8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-7eddd144e8-386548940#/registration



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 for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to 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-8pIPFwRIOAngV1FjDVXXeIE7CFvNOeLiBRY3cKJdYxA4Bkf52EYo8gyeKxNbFERCrdGShgPq2isWbm1yEdUnY1F2anzQ&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=bxlW8lOLfyg>

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.walnutstreetsshul@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>



Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, PO Box 505265, Chelsea, MA 02150
Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com