



Summer Appeal, Taste of Jewish Culture, Upcoming Programs, Crossroads and Connections, Shul Visits and More – July 31, 2023

SUMMER 2023 APPEAL

Our Summer Appeal is underway. We welcome your support at any level. Donations can be made online or through the mail. Thank you for your continuing support!

More information and Online Donations - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/summer-2023-appeal/>

THE TASTE OF JEWISH CULTURE



Not Just Apples and Honey: Rosh Hashana Foods and Their Many Meanings

Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

We all know that we “dip the apple in the honey” on Rosh Hashana. But there are so many more symbolic foods that Jews around the world eat on the holiday. What do all of these foods mean? Why is symbolism such a big part of this holiday? How legit are newly-coined symbols at the Rosh Hashana table? And most importantly, what do these traditions say about our people? 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.

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!



All the Honor of the King's Daughter Is Within – Imma Shalom and the Feminine Ideal

Part 1 - Tuesday, August 1, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 2 - Tuesday, August 8, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 - Tuesday, August 15, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 4 - Tuesday, August 22, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Who, according to rabbinic literature, is the perfect woman? Does Imma Shalom, Mother Peace, fulfill this ideal? And what has this to do with the greatest story the Talmud has ever told? Join us for a four-part series exploring the tragedy of Imma Shalom through the Bible, Midrash, and Talmud; Xenophon, St. Paul, and Muhammad; Tennyson, Dickens, and Patmore; Ruskin, Rav Kook, and Betty Freidan.

Gila Fine is a teacher of Aggada 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 – bring the stories of the Talmud to life, 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/tZ0pcOGopzMjGNY61QqjW2bGTROH_SV75cq6?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=1dc88fba67-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-1dc88fba67-386548940#/registration

The Dynamic Interplay Between Religion, State, and National Identity in Israel

Part 1 – Israel at 75: Jewish Identity – Tensions and Trends – Thursday, August 3, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 2 – Is There Such a Thing as an Israeli? – Thursday, August 10, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 – Religion and State in Israel: The End of the Status Quo – Thursday, August 17, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 4 – Jewish Nationalism and the Temple Mount: The End-Point of Zionism – Thursday, August 24, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Over the past three decades, Israel has experienced significant changes in its religious landscape, with shifts in secular and religious Zionism, as well as challenges faced by the Ultra-Orthodox community. This series will explore the emergence of diverse Jewish voices in Israel today and analyze the impact of these changes on the nation's identity and democratic ideals.

Part 1 – Israel at 75: Jewish Identity – Tensions and Trends – Over the last thirty years major changes have transformed the Jewish religious field in Israel. Secular Zionism, which held undisputed hegemony, has crumbled. Religious Zionism, at first evincing a triumphant Settler movement, has lost its thrust, and the Ultra-Orthodox are in a crisis of leadership. We shall analyze and understand the many and varied Jewish voices emerging today in Israel.

Part 2 – Is There Such a Thing as an Israeli? – Jews always had a complicated relationship with nationality. Within the budding nation states in Europe they struggled for equal rights while suspected of being “a nation within a nation” and founding the state of Israel put the shoe on the other foot: now they had to accommodate a large minority into their democracy. If that's not enough, the very structure of Judaism seems to challenge the simple logic of Liberal Democracy, at least as it plays out in the United States. We shall examine why that is, and try to assess the integrity and equity of modern Jewish nationalism, fluctuating as it does between the modern abstract individual and the specific Jew.

Part 3 – Religion and State in Israel: The End of the Status Quo – Religion and State relations were never simple in Israel, yet over the last three decades they've entered a dramatic overhaul. The famous

“Status” agreed between Ben-Gurion and the Ultra-Orthodox in 1947, is today a dead letter, highlighting the growing gap between public opinion in Israel and the formal word of the law. The Chief Rabbinate has lost public legitimacy, and diverse “Judaisms” challenge the traditional divisions in Israeli society. We shall examine the social conditions for these developments, as well as their political ramifications, such as were witnessed in the Israeli October 2019 elections.

Part 4 – Jewish Nationalism and the Temple Mount: The End-Point of Zionism – While historical Secular Zionism wanted little to do with the Temple Mount, and Haredi and Religious Zionism shied away from the site for Halakhic reasons, the last decade witnessed a dramatic change in the attitude of secular and religious Zionism toward the Temple Mount, as for many, including high-ranking Israeli politicians, it now functions as a national symbol of sovereignty, while for fundamentalist Jewish groups it has become the object of messianic yearnings. It’s interesting to analyze past and present dispositions, ask why now, and of course to notice the dangers it carries.

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/tZYrfumurjkvE9RA84_4LK7GYqiLSkE_tWZb?utm_source=CS&utm_campaign=e8cfb5968c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-e8cfb5968c-386548940#/registration

Jewish Nationalism in the Age of Liberal Democracy

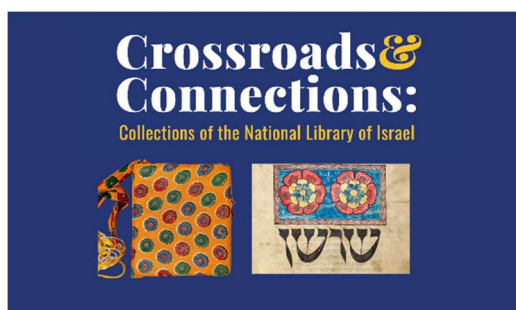
Sunday, August 6, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

What is the relationship between nationalism and democracy in Israel and in the United States, and can ethno-nationalism be reconciled with liberal democracy? This lecture highlights the conceptual differences between the constitutional foundations of Israel and the U.S. and delves into the different understandings of the state’s purpose and the meaning of nationalism and citizenship within the context of these two democracies.

Dr. Masua Sagiv is the Koret Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Scholar in Residence of the Shalom Hartman Institute based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Masua’s scholarly work focuses on the development of contemporary Judaism in Israel, as a culture, religion, nationality, and as part of Israel’s identity as a Jewish and democratic state. Her research explores the role of law, state actors and civil society organizations in promoting social change across diverse issues: shared society, religion and gender, religion and state, and Jewish peoplehood. Prior to moving to the Bay Area, Masua was the Academic Director of the Menomadin Center for Jewish and Democratic Law at Bar-Ilan University. Masua earned her doctorate in law from Tel Aviv University, where she wrote her dissertation on the topic of *Law and Social Change in the Halachic Feminist Struggle in Israel*. Her dissertation won the Ben Halpern Award for Best Dissertation in Israel Studies. Masua has an LL.B. in Law and Political Science (Magna Cum Laude) from Bar-Ilan University and an LL.M. (with Honors) from Columbia University School of Law. Her book, *Radical Conservatism* (in Hebrew), on the Halachic Feminist struggle in Israel, will be published by the end of this year.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtf--pqj4uH9RfGzsAdc4p7j90oZJuh3DS?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=a201fca026-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-a201fca026-386548940#/registration

CROSSROADS AND CONNECTIONS



The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to partner with the National Library of Israel (NLI) and NLI-USA to present the **Crossroads and Connections** virtual exhibition. The NLI is home to the intellectual and cultural treasures of Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. In celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary year, NLI presents this exhibition of 18 highlights from their collection which represent cultural and religious creativity in Israel past and present. Two alternatives are available to access the exhibition - video format and digital format which includes images of each item and additional links to relevant resources. Please follow the link below for more information and for access to the exhibition.

Crossroads and Connections exhibition - walnutstreetsynagogue.com/crossroads-and-connections

YAD CHESSED



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 plan to combat rising antisemitism in Massachusetts. They have also recently launched their Face Jewish Hate campaign. Their campaign combines the real-life stories of antisemitic incidents happening in Greater Boston to draw attention to this issue and a resource center focused on educating, mobilizing and empowering our community. |

Learn more -

https://www.facejewishhate.org/?utm_campaign=FaceJewishHate&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=258118072&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-82edGNbXkPO501V6avGb4y0al9s9NhnP2ma4wQQuGfCqG1q-9W7xflDgT5uQQ2tjtTeo-6tGoLAXLabNBUchEb2ZHeUCavJJbGva9mvhc8ha60ydE&utm_content=258118072&utm_source=hs_email

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=bxIW8lOLfyg>

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 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

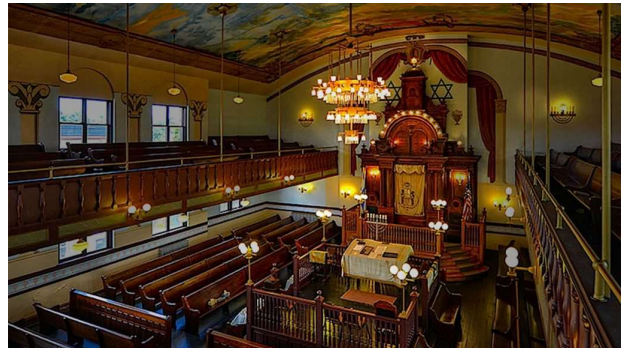
<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/>

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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