



Support Israel in Boston, Taste of Jewish Culture, Upcoming Programs, Individual/Family and Group Shul Tours and More – November 13, 2023

SUPPORT ISRAEL IN BOSTON

Israel Emergency Fund

Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) has launched the **Israel Emergency Fund** in response to the unprecedented and horrifying attack against Israel was launched over Shabbat and Shemini Atzeret. 100% of donations received will help support victims of terror and address the unprecedented levels of trauma caused by these horrific attacks.

Donate here -

https://give.cjp.org/give/525536/?utm_medium=email&hsmi=277433797&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8gOZCCFZuo0azQF8zaBKQdGAcCSLveZd6_d0V0waC554D5ms3kS7MKY-HlyHX9FnmkhRzMMuotkwUml90yJN57MAxqew&utm_content=277433797&utm_source=hs_email#!/do_nation/checkout

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE (walnutstreetsynagogue.com/2023-programs-november) AND THE WALNUT STREET SYNAGOGUE FACEBOOK PAGE AND JEWS OF CHELSEA - THEN AND NOW FACEBOOK GROUP FOR NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

THE TASTE OF JEWISH CULTURE



Oil, Almonds, and... Ears?! The Customary Foods of Chanukkah, Tu B'Shvat, and Purim
Monday, November 20, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

These three holidays all have popular foods associated with them, and plenty more that may be less familiar. By diving deeper into the dishes we eat to celebrate, we'll answer such perplexing questions as, "would we still eat latkes if there were no miracle of the oil," "what the heck is bokser anyway," and "did Haman actually have pointy ears?" 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!



A New Jewish Voice: Europe

Tuesday, November 14, 1:00 pm EST (online)

The contemporary Jewish story has three voices: the mass immigration to the Golden Medina from the old country, the Holocaust and the birth of the State of Israel, and the third only now is beginning to be heard. It is the story of post-Holocaust Europe. It has its own compelling narrative, its own perspectives, and its potential to contribute to the choir of Jewish civilization. With the fall of Communism came the awakening of the third narrative and the past 30 years since have brought a renaissance of Jewish culture and heritage, together with a focus on regaining Jewish literacy. Recently the European Union has become an active partner in this movement and with it a new European voice, crossing traditional national borders.

Barbara Lerner Spectre, the Founding Director of Paideia, previously served on the faculty of the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, teaching Jewish Thought and cofounding the Seminary of Judaic Studies. Renowned for her research in post-Holocaust theology, she has been honored with a grant from Yad V'Shem Institute. Barbara has authored significant works, including *A Theology of Doubt* and co-wrote *A Different Light: The Hannukah Book of Celebration* with Noam Zion. Among her many accolades, she received the Max M. Fisher Prize for Jewish Education in 2007, the ICRF Women in Action award in 2008, the Abraham Geiger Medal in 2016, and in 2018 was honored with the King's Medal from Sweden's King Carl Gustav XVI for her remarkable contributions to Jewish culture both in Sweden and internationally.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscugqgrzgvHt25YenCe - 26lXOlhKYyhd8?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=0ea4e4f14a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-0ea4e4f14a-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscugqgrzgvHt25YenCe-26lXOlhKYyhd8?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=0ea4e4f14a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-0ea4e4f14a-386548940#/registration)

Danger: Women with Books

Part 3 - To Write Holy Words: A Soferet Encounters the Sacred - Thursday, November 16, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 4 - Queering The Torah Text: Strange Letters and A Woman's Hand - Thursday, November 30, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

The profession of safrut, of the sacred scribal arts, has traditionally been thought of as "man's work" both from an halakhic (legal) perspective and from a sociological one. Yet the very first illustrated Scroll of Esther that has come down to us has the signature of a female scribe, women copied Torah manuscripts in book form in societies as conservative as Yemen, and wealthy women in Italy wrote manuscripts, had liturgy "reformed" to reflect specifically female concerns, and are depicted within manuscripts. This series, with Vassar professor Marc Michael Epstein considers the effects (and the perceived dangers) of women who write and illustrate sacred texts.

Part 3 – To Write Holy Words: A Soferet Encounters the Sacred – Professor Epstein will be in conversation with Jen Taylor Friedman about her practice as a soferet (scribe) and the experience of writing a variety of different types of manuscripts, including the first Torah scroll known to have been created by a woman.

Part 4 – Queering The Torah Text: Strange Letters and A Woman's Hand – There are still patrons in the world today who commission Jewish manuscripts. Some are ostensibly Orthodox, yet they insist on

female scribes. Why? This session will explore the creation of one of the most radical (yet deeply traditional!) manifestations of this impulse, the creation of a Torah scroll full of “strange letters,” a little-known tradition that is being revived in our own day.

Winner of the 2015 Jewish Book Award in Visual Arts for *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts*, **Marc Michael Epstein** is the product of a mixed marriage between the scions of Slonimer and Lubavitcher Hassidim and Romanian socialists, and grew up, rather confused, but happy, in Brooklyn, New York. He is currently Professor of Religion at Vassar College, where he has been teaching since 1992, and was the first Director of Jewish Studies. At Vassar, he teaches courses on medieval Christianity, religion, arts and politics, and Jewish texts and sources. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, received the Ph.D. at Yale University, and did much of his graduate research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has written numerous articles and three books on various topics in visual and material culture produced by, for, and about Jews. His book, *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination* (Yale, 2011) was selected by the London Times Literary Supplement as one of the best books of 2011. During the '80s, Epstein was Director of the Hebrew Books and Manuscripts division of Sotheby's Judaica department. He continues to serve as consultant to various libraries, auction houses, museums and private collectors throughout the world.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZAudumrrD4sG9GAal-k7sYGMHAMmywD1RAJ#/registration>

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 (chedsed) 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@yadchedsed.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchedsed.org.

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

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-82edGNbXkPO501V6avGb4y0aI9s9NhnP2ma4wQQUGfCqG1q-9W7xflDgT5uQQ2tjtTeo-6tGoLAXLabNBUchEb2ZHeUCavJJbGva9mvhc8ha60ydE&utm_content=258118072&utm_source=hs_email

VISIT

If you live in the Boston area and have never seen our historic shul, or haven't visited in a while, or if you plan to visit the area, we welcome you to see our shul in person and take a tour! Please follow the link

below for more information and to request **Individual/Family** or **Group (new)** tours.
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/>

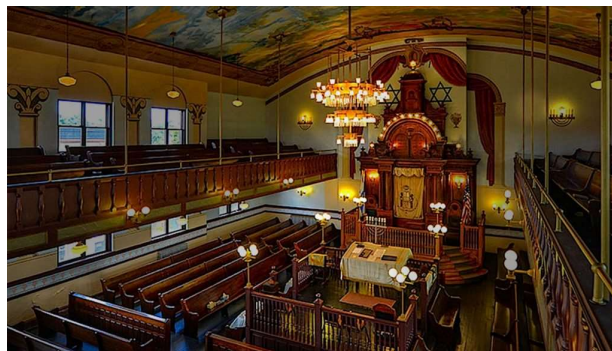
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

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

Facebook Group - Jews of Chelsea, MA Then and Now

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

The Walnut Street Synagogue is the center for Jewish history, education and culture serving Chelsea, Greater Boston and beyond and is the historic home of Congregation Agudas Sholom. (added to National Register of Historic Places in 1993)



Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, PO Box 505265, Chelsea, MA 02150-5265
Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com