



Support Israel in Boston, Taste of Jewish Culture, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – November 6, 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!



Danger: Women with Books

Part 2 - Rewriting the Rules: Women, Halakhah and the creation of Jewish Books - Thursday, November 9, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

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 2 – Rewriting the Rules: Women, Halakhah and the creation of Jewish Books – Are you the kind of person who stays for the credits at the movies? Well, if you were a scholar of Jewish art, you would then certainly read the colophons of manuscripts—the short concluding texts that can contain patron names and/or information about artists. Fascinatingly, a number of these have come down to us in which women have literally inscribed their participation in the creation of sacred texts. What was the halakhic (legal) position on such practice? To what does the fact that it occurred testify?

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/meeting/register/tZAudumrrD4sG9GAal-k7sYGmHAMmywD1RAJ#/registration>

Duets on Psalms – Drawing New Meaning from Ancient Words

Sunday, November 12, 1:00 pm EST (online)

Psalms are spiritual poems to God that emerged from pivotal moments in the lives of their biblical authors. They serve as essential components of Jewish and Christian liturgy and are integral to secular culture, such as the widespread familiarity with “The Lord is my Shepherd” or the exclamation of “Halleluyah.” These ancient compositions are marked by an honesty that conveys wisdom colored with a wide-pallet of intense emotions. In *Duets on Psalms* (release date of November 2023), **Rabbi Elie Spitz** and **Rabbi Jack Riemer**, a pair of rabbis of differing generations, examine eleven psalms as if wearing bifocals, They will be looking closely at the artistry and original context while extracting personal insights for contemporary readers. Join us as we learn about this welcome addition to the Jewish bookshelf and to explore two of the psalms featured in the book, Psalm 1 and Psalm 23.

Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz approaches the familiar in unfamiliar ways. A spiritual leader and scholar specializing in topics of spirituality and Judaism, he teaches, writes and speaks to a wide range of audiences. He served as the rabbi of Congregation B’nai Israel in Tustin, California, for over three decades and served as member of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Law and Standards for twenty years. Rabbi Spitz is author of *Healing from Despair: Choosing Wholeness in a Broken World, Does the Soul Survive? A Jewish Journey to Belief in Afterlife, Past Lives & Living with Purpose and Increasing Wholeness: Jewish Wisdom and Guided Meditations to Strengthen and Calm Body, Heart, Mind and Spirit* (all Jewish Lights) and many articles dealing with spirituality and Jewish law. Rabbi Spitz spent seventeen months teaching the Psalms with half-hour presentations for each Psalm (recently completing all 150 Psalms!).

Rabbi Jack Riemer is a well-known author and speaker. He is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Beth Tikvah (now Shaarei Kodesh) in Boca Raton, Florida, and founded the National Rabbinic Network, a support system for rabbis across all denominational lines. He is the author of *Finding God in Unexpected Places: Wisdom for Everyone from the Jewish Tradition* and is editor of *The World of the High Holy Days* (Bernie Books) and *Wrestling with the Angel* (Schocken), coeditor of *So That Your Values Live On: Ethical Wills and How to Prepare Them*, and contributed to *May God Remember: Memory and Memorializing in Judaism Yizkor* (both Jewish Lights). Widely sought after as a master storyteller and teacher, Rabbi Riemer is one of the most frequently quoted rabbis in the U.S. That’s because of the winding paths he takes in describing the relevance of timeless Jewish wisdom in our modern world. He is often referred to as the “rabbi’s rabbi” among Jewish clergy, because he has taught and mentored so many of his colleagues.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAVc-yvqTouHdHaD-TP924Yi1W_R7dTwHb4?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=3eee79c296-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-3eee79c296-386548940#/registration

Chazzanus, Aesthetics and Non-Conformity

Monday, November 13, 1:00 pm EST (online)

In this talk, scholar and musician Jeremiah Lockwood will discuss the role of cantors as stars of mass media in the early 20th century and the ways in which new outlets for performance allowed people with outsider identities to perform roles of sacred authority. Combining storytelling, deep listening to old records, and conversation, this event will offer a provocative and pleasurable entry into the world of early 20th century Jewish American musical life and its echoes into the present day.

Jeremiah Lockwood is a scholar and musician, working in the fields of Jewish studies, performance studies and ethnomusicology. His work embraces archival and ethnographic research methods to explore 19th, 20th and 21st century Jewish liturgical music as a locus for understanding lived experience in contexts of political and social change. Jeremiah’s career as scholar and musician engages with issues arising from peering into the archive and imagining the power of “lost” forms of expression to articulate keenly felt needs in the present. He successfully defended his dissertation in the Stanford University Graduate School of Education Concentration in Education and Jewish Studies in 2021, and is currently a 2022-23 Fellow at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Jeremiah was the 2019-20 recipient of the YIVO Kremen Memorial Fellowship in East European Arts, Music and Theater, the 2020 AJS Women’s Caucus innovative scholarship award and the 2021 Salo Baron New Voices in Jewish Studies Award. His writing has been published in *Religion and American Culture*, *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, *Germanica* and *In geveb*, as well as in popular publications such as *Tablet* and the *Forward*.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduggqj4rEtWsnqEVwgb5gXmk669ahVTf?utm_source=CS&utm_campaign=10d24eecb4-

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-82edGNbXkPO501V6avGb4y0al9s9NhnP2ma4wQQQuGfCqG1q-9W7xfIDgT5uQQ2tjtTeo-6tGoLAXLabNBUchEb2ZHeUCavJJbGva9mvhc8ha60ydE&utm_content=258118072&utm_source=hs_email

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! 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>



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