



# The Taste of Jewish Culture, Upcoming Programs, Shul Video and More – January 2, 2023

## THE TASTE OF JEWISH CULTURE



Please join our online exploration of Jewish food traditions and the historical connections between Jews and food with Jewish Food researcher Joel Haber, live from Jerusalem. Our second session, ***Chulent and Hamin: The Stew with a Thousand Flavors***, will be on January 18 at 7:00 pm EST. **More information and registration - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/the-taste-of-jewish-culture/>**

## 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!



### Understanding Arab Culture

Tuesday, January 3, 3:30 pm EST (online)

Within a century of the death of Muhammad, in 632 CE, Muslim armies had conquered almost the whole of the world where Jews lived, from Spain eastward across North Africa and the Middle East as far as the

eastern frontier of Iran and beyond. Almost all the Jews in the world were now ruled by Islam. This new situation transformed Jewish existence. Fortunes changed in legal, demographic, social, religious, political, geographical, economic, linguistic and cultural terms. Along with legal near-equality came social and economic equality. Jews were not confined to ghettos, either literally or in terms of economic activity. The societies of Islam were, in effect, open societies. In religious terms, as well, Jews enjoyed virtually full freedom. Jews adopted the language of the Muslim Arabs such that by the early 10th century, only 300 years after the conquests, Sa'adya Gaon was translating the Bible into Arabic. By the year 900 CE, the Jews had largely abandoned other languages and taken on Arabic. The change of language in its turn brought Jews into direct contact with broader cultural developments. The result from the 10th century on was a striking pairing of two cultures. The Jews of the Islamic world developed an entirely new culture, which differed from Jewish culture before Islam in terms of language, theology, philosophy and worldview. In order to truly understand Judaism as we know it today, therefore, we need to understand Arab culture.

**Dr. David Mendelsohn** supervises the entire academic program of the Kivunim Institute. His areas of expertise include Islamic Studies, History and Culture of Arabs with Israeli Citizenship, Bedouin Law and the relationship between language and culture in Arabic and Hebrew. His current research examines the influence of Hebrew on the dialects of Arabic spoken in Israel. Mendelsohn also lectures on the history and relationships between Middle East countries and militant organizations. David holds advanced degrees in diverse fields: a Ph.D. Classics / Linguistics, an M.A. in Archaeology / Linguistics and an Honours B.A. in Classical Studies. David is the recipient of one of Canada's highest academic honors, The Trudeau Prize and a world class Judo Gold Medal winner. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife Roni and 3 children. *This program is fully funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County*

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucOipqjllGNJdEcjbbqq6kqY-ymRthK5-?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=e51cb0cf66-](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucOipqjllGNJdEcjbbqq6kqY-ymRthK5-?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=e51cb0cf66-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-e51cb0cf66-386548940](EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-e51cb0cf66-386548940)

## **History & Philosophy of Islam**

**Part 1 – Jahiliyyah – Arabia before Islam** – Thursday, January 5, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 2 – Muhammad and His Visions** – Thursday, January 12, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 3 – Aisha, Fatima and the Sunni-Shia Split** – Thursday, January 19, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 4 – The Hajj – The Pilgrimage to End All Pilgrimages** – Thursday, January 26, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 1 – Jahiliyyah – Arabia before Islam** – What was Arabia like before Muhammad had his visions? Who were the tribes that comprised this world? What were the main systems of knowledge, economics and politics? Join us as we dive into the “Age of Ignorance” – the time before the Prophet arrived.

**Part 2 – Muhammad and His Visions** – Who was Muhammad? How did he come to unify the Arab world? How does one person's vision and code of ethics and morality unify a people? What was Muhammad's major unifying message? What was the attraction that eventually caused so many to convert?

**Part 3 – Aisha, Fatima and the Sunni-Shia Split** – What was the role of women in general in the rise of Islam? We will ‘meet’ Aisha and Fatima and other powerful women surrounding Muhammad and then explore the redirection of Islam into a dynastic system.

**Part 4 – The Hajj – The Pilgrimage to End All Pilgrimages** – Join us as we delve into the origins of the Hajj ritual, the place it takes within Islamic culture and the surprising connections between the Hajj and the Chagim.

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### **Demystifying History**

**Part 1 – A Tale of Two Popes: Pope Pius XII and John Paul II** – Sunday, January 8, 7:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 2 – FDR and the Holocaust** – Sunday, January 15, 7:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 3 – Our People are Your People: American Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights** – Sunday, January 22, 7:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 4 – Putin, Ukraine and the Jews** – Sunday, January 29, 7:00 pm EST (online)

**Part 1 – A Tale of Two Popes: Pope Pius XII and John Paul I** – Two brilliant men faced different and difficult times. One by the sin of omission dishonored his church. The other changed history and transformed Jewish Catholic relations.

**Part 2 – FDR and the Holocaust** – He was the greatest president of the twentieth century, a magnificent leader during the Depression and in the war. But when it came to the Jews he failed.

**Part 3 – Our People are Your People: American Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights** – Jewish involvement in the Civil Rights movement is perhaps the most glorious moment in American Jewish history. Yet even in the midst of close collaboration there was the beginning of tension that continues up to the present.

**Part 4 – Putin, Ukraine and the Jews** – Personality counts in history. The former KGB man rolled the dice. We shall see how they come up. His future and the future of Europe hang in the balance.

**Stephen M. Berk**, who served as CSP's 10th Annual One Month Scholar in Residence in February 2011, is Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York, former Chair of the Department of History, Director of the Program in Russian and Eastern European Studies and Faculty Advisor to the Jewish Student Organization. He is the author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* (Greenwood Press, 1985). He is currently writing a book titled: "Our People Are Your People: American Jewry and the Struggle for Civil Rights 1954-1965." The book provides an interesting discussion of an extremely important chapter in the history of the civil rights movement and attempts to dispel the myths and misunderstandings surrounding the Black-Jewish relationship. A recipient of the Citizens Laureate Award of the University of Albany Foundation, Professor Berk has been a consultant to the Wiesenthal Holocaust Center in Los Angeles, has written articles on Russian and Jewish history, anti-Semitism, and the Middle East and has lectured on throughout the United States and Canada including such distinguished colleges and universities as Princeton, Vanderbilt, The University of Texas at Austin and Williams College.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpceiprTloGdXxDbOga6bCFIqczr0ECyYC?utm\\_source=CS&utm\\_campaign=ce65f3c1c7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_05&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-ce65f3c1c7-386548940](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpceiprTloGdXxDbOga6bCFIqczr0ECyYC?utm_source=CS&utm_campaign=ce65f3c1c7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-ce65f3c1c7-386548940)

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

**Israel at 75**

**Part 3 – The Influencers: Menachem Begin, Shimon Peres, Ariel Sharon, and Benjamin Netanyahu** - Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 pm EST (online)



Department Special Envoy on Holocaust Issues.

**Event flyer** - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Holocaust-Remembrance-Day-Flyer-2023-002.pdf>

**Register here** - <https://www.lappinfoundation.org/2022/12/13/international-holocaust-remembrance-day-commemoration-2/>

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

**Support Yad Chessed** - <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/yadchessed>

## WALNUT STREET SYNAGOGUE FEATURE VIDEO

In May 2021, the Walnut Street Synagogue became a partner congregation of the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program (CSP). As confirmed in our survey last summer, we have a high participation rate with the online CSP programs. We were very honored by CSP to be featured in the first video of their Art and Architecture Series. The program is narrated by Dr. Samuel Gruber who some of you may remember as one of our featured speakers at our Founders' Day event in September 2019. In the video you will learn about the history of our historic shul and see all of our distinguishing elements on a virtual tour.

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

## 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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