



SPRING SPEAKER SERIES - JEWISH EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA

Announcing Spring Speaker Series – Jewish Experiences in America – February 21, 2024

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to announce the launch of our ***Spring Speaker Series - Jewish Experiences in America***, a three-part series featuring three leading scholars discussing three very different aspects of the Jewish experience in America. We are dedicating the series in memory of our friend and Chelsea native Norman H. Finkelstein, z”l, who passed away in January.

The first session, ***Jewish Name Changing in America***, will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 pm ET. Our speaker will be **Kirsten Fermaglich**, Professor of History and Jewish Studies at Michigan State University. Her most recent book, *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America* (New York University Press, 2018) was awarded the Saul Viener Book Prize by the American Jewish Historical Society in June 2019.

The second session, ***Becoming American Jews: The Evidence in Art and Architecture***, will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 pm ET. Our speaker will be **Samuel Gruber**, an accomplished researcher, author, curator and consultant, and founder and managing director of Gruber Heritage Global (GHG) - a cultural resources consulting firm. The talk will track how and when immigrants used new language, new symbols, new images, and new styles in art and architecture in order to express their identity as both Jews and Americans.

The third session, ***Overcoming Antisemitism in America***, will be held on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00 pm ET. Our speaker will be **Rabbi Charles Savenor**, Executive Director of Civic Spirit and the former Director of Congregational Education at Park Avenue Synagogue. Rabbi Savenor will discuss Norman H. Finkelstein’s final book, *Saying No to Hate: Overcoming Antisemitism in America*, to understand as much the current crisis as the Jewish community’s unending courage, perseverance, and hope.

Complete descriptions of each session along with registration links are found on our website (walnutstreetsynagogue.com/speaker-series). **You will need to register for each session individually** and we will send Zoom links a few days before each session. There is no charge.

This series is made possible by a grant from the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund. Additional sponsorships are available (see our sponsorship form or event website).

Please join us. I hope to see you online for this upcoming series!

L'Shalom,

Edward Medros
President, Walnut Street Synagogue