



**Jerusalem Development Series, Spring Speaker Series,  
Upcoming Programs, Purim Campaign, Shul Tours and  
More –  
March 11, 2024**

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**JERUSALEM: THE HOLY CITY'S DEVELOPMENT FROM  
ANTIQUITY TO TODAY**

Join us for an online exploration of the growth of the city from its beginnings as a small town on a hillside to the modern city it is today with Jerusalem-based tour guide Joel Haber.



**The First Modern Neighborhoods: 1860-1880**  
Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 pm EST (online)

After millennia as a small, walled city, Jerusalem finally took its first steps beyond its walls in the middle of the 19th century. During this next phase, five new neighborhoods were built, hugging the walls. Built by different groups and funded in different manners, these first neighborhoods set up the model for the creation of what came to be known as Jerusalem's New City.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jerusalem-the-first-modern-neighborhoods-1860-1880-tickets-796250345217?aff=oddtcreator>

**SPRING SPEAKER SERIES - JEWISH EXPERIENCES IN  
AMERICA**

Join us online for a three-part series featuring three leading scholars discussing three very different aspects of the Jewish experience in America.



### **Jewish Name Changing in America**

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

Our images of name changing are frequently clichés: movie stars who adopted new names or Ellis Island officials who changed immigrants' names. Kirsten Fermaglich upends these clichés by examining previously unexplored name change petitions. In twentieth-century New York City, thousands of ordinary Jews legally changed their names to respond to institutionalized antisemitism. While name changing allowed Jewish families to achieve middle-class status, the practice also became a source of family pain and community stigma. Our speaker **Kirsten Fermaglich** is 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.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-speaker-series-jewish-name-changing-in-america-tickets-846015744867?aff=oddtcreator>

## **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!



### **Leviticus is Christianity, Deuteronomy is Judaism: The Disentangling and Development of Biblical Worldviews**

**Part 2 - Leviticus is Christianity and Deuteronomy is Judaism (Mostly)** - Thursday, March 14, 1:00 pm EST (online)

In our series *Leviticus is Christianity, Deuteronomy is Judaism: The Disentangling and Development of Biblical Worldviews*, we explore the distinct roles of Leviticus and Deuteronomy in shaping Jewish thought and practice. Over four sessions, we delve into how these texts influenced early Rabbinic Judaism, were interpreted by medieval Jewish philosophers and mystics, and how their differing perspectives on God's relationship with the Jewish people have impacted the evolution of Jewish theology and anthropology.

**Part 2 – Leviticus is Christianity and Deuteronomy is Judaism (Mostly)** - Early Bible scholars were German Protestants who took a very dim view of priestly literature in the Bible because they associated priests with Roman Catholicism. How ironic that all of Christianity is fundamentally reliant upon the priestly worldview! Within Rabbinic Judaism, we'll see the two systems appear as rationales for Rabbinic disputes that might otherwise seem unintelligible. We'll also see that Rabbinic Judaism tilts towards Deuteronomy.

**Rabbi Dr. Shai Cherry** serves as rabbi and Creative Educational Officer of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. After eighteen years in academics, Cherry shifted from university teaching

to the pulpit in 2019. Rav Shai's early academic research focused on Judaism and Darwinism. His first book, *Torah through Time: Understanding Bible Commentary from the Rabbinic Period to Modern Times*, redirected his focus from creation to revelation—how is God's word and will understood in changing circumstances? Finally, how do we respond to what we understand to be God's will? To address that question, Cherry attended the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and was ordained in 2009. His latest work, *Coherent Judaism: Constructive Theology, Creation, and Halakhah* brings these threads together to offer a vision of 21st-century Judaism. Formerly on the faculties of Vanderbilt University and the University of San Diego, he is the featured lecturer for The Great Courses' "Introduction to Judaism".  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lc-Gtrj8rGdWj9McesZF7hpgcOS8f0QzT?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=e9ae6600c9-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-e9ae6600c9-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lc-Gtrj8rGdWj9McesZF7hpgcOS8f0QzT?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=e9ae6600c9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-e9ae6600c9-386548940#/registration)

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### Challenges of Wartime Investigative Journalism

Monday, March 11, 1:00 pm EDT (online program presented by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University)

Join the Schusterman Center for an insider's look at how Israeli media is covering the war with Hamas. The featured speaker is veteran Israeli journalist Romy Neumark.

[https://brandeis.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Tq2ehjD0Tyy7DbEKEqK4Pw#/registration](https://brandeis.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Tq2ehjD0Tyy7DbEKEqK4Pw#/registration)

### The Abraham Accords Post October 7

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm EDT (online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)

Join the Lappin Foundation for *Update from Israel: Exploring the Pulse and Mood of the Country*. Ido Aharoni Aronoff will present an overview of social and political undercurrents in Israeli society and explore what may emerge from October 7 and the Israel-Hamas war. Aharoni was Israel's Consul General to New York, serving from 2010 through 2016, and he has been a member of the Tel Aviv University Board of Governors.

<https://www.lappinfoundation.org/2023/12/20/the-abraham-accords-post-october-7/>

## SHUL TOURS

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/>



### Matanot LaEyonim – Gifts For People in Need

The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to be participating again this year in Yad Chessed's Purim Campaign. From now until Purim Day (11:00 am on Sunday, March 24), **Yad Chessed will be collecting donations to fulfil the mitzvah of Matanot LaEvyonim**. For over 30 years Yad Chessed, an independent Jewish social service agency, has worked to address the needs of Jews in our Boston area community who struggle with financial and food insecurity. With the support of donors, and partner organizations, Yad Chessed's team of social workers provides swift emergency financial assistance, grocery gift cards, and compassionate care, advice, and referrals to those in need.

The mitzvah of helping those in need is central to the spirit of Purim and reminds us that we are obligated

and honored to extend a hand in times of joy and celebration. Funds raised for Matanot LaEvyonim will then be distributed on Purim Day itself so our neighbors in need can purchase food for themselves and their families.

**Donate Now to Yad Chessed** - <https://givebutter.com/YadChessedPurim2024>

You may also mail a donation to Yad Chessed at:

440 Totten Pond Road

Suite 401

Waltham, MA 02451

*Please include the word "Purim" and "Walnut Street Synagogue" on your check memo.*

**Questions:** Email – [Info@yadchessed.org](mailto:Info@yadchessed.org) or call: 781-613-3413

**More information:** [www.yadchessed.org/purim/](http://www.yadchessed.org/purim/)

## 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!

## 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/>

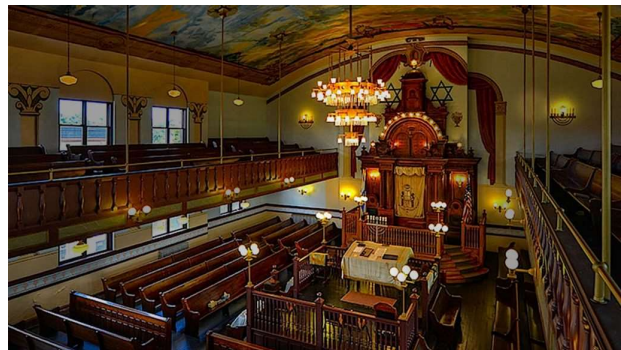
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<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)*



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