



## Jerusalem Development Series, Spring Speaker Series, Upcoming Programs, Purim Campaign, Shul Tours and More – March 4, 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!



### **“Hamas and I”**

Tuesday, March 5, 3:30 pm EST (online)

Elhanan Miller has been following Hamas for years as a journalist, interviewing senior movement officials as well as families of Hamas assailants. What insights has he gleaned from these interactions? Where did he get it wrong before the massacre of October 7th? This talk will vacillate between an historical and ideological overview and anecdotes from his reporting.

**Rabbi Elhanan Miller** is the founding editor of *People of the Book*, an online initiative that teaches Jewish faith and culture to Muslim audiences through educational videos shared on social media. An Arabic specialist, Miller is a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and a faculty member at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. He previously served as the Arab Affairs Reporter for The Times of Israel and as rabbi of the Jewish community in Canberra, Australia. Born and raised in Jerusalem, Miller began studying Arabic at 13, serving as a linguist in the IDF's Intelligence Unit 8200. He completed his BA (cum laude) and MA degrees in Middle East History and Islamic Studies at Hebrew University. While studying for Orthodox rabbinic ordination at Beit Midrash Harel, he founded People of the Book in July 2017. Miller completed research on the Palestinian refugee issue as an Atkin Fellow at Kings College, London, and was the Richard Beeston scholar at the foreign desk of the London Times. Miller regularly comments on Israeli politics in Arabic news channels including Al Jazeera, BBC Arabic,

Sky News Arabia and Israel's public broadcaster Kan. His opinion articles have appeared in *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He is fluent in English, Hebrew, Arabic, French and Yiddish.  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcumvrzliGdcK3kUNLsL76QJ5HHp8E05N?utm\\_source=CS&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/tZlkcumvrzliGdcK3kUNLsL76QJ5HHp8E05N?utm_source=CS&utm_campaign=e9ae6600c9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-e9ae6600c9-386548940#/registration)

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

**Part 1 - The Operating Systems of Leviticus and Deuteronomy** - Thursday, March 7, 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 1 – The Operating Systems of Leviticus and Deuteronomy** – Modern biblical scholarship has helped us understand how to disentangle the different authors of the Bible. When we do that, we can see how different authors held conflicting understandings about God and God's relationship with the Jewish people. This session will focus on the two dominant theologies and anthropologies that will engage us during this course.

**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)

## **Israeli Society and Economy in the Shadow of the October 7 War**

Sunday, March 10, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

This overview presentation focuses on the impact of the October 7, 2023 War, delves into the current situation and outlines actions crucial both during the ongoing conflict and post-war. It focuses on key social policy issues in Israel in numerous socioeconomic areas, including education, welfare, labor markets, healthcare, and macroeconomics.

**Professor Avi Weiss** is an authority on the Israeli economy and the array of social issues facing Israel today. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1987, and is the President of the Taub Center of Social Policy Studies in Israel, as well as a Professor of Economics at Bar-Ilan University. Professor Weiss' fields of interest include Applied Microeconomics, and Behavioral and Experimental Economics. He served as Chair of the Economics Department at Bar-Ilan University, and was the editor of *The Economic Quarterly*, the journal of the Israel Economic Association. In December 2019, *The Marker*, one of Israel's leading business papers, included Avi, in his role as President of the Taub Center, in their list of the 100 people most likely to influence Israelis in 2020.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcOuorzMtG9L69kwdBLXp1FiXBC2z0ZT8?utm\\_source=CS&utm\\_campaign=2bcf03e655-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_03&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-2bcf03e655-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcOuorzMtG9L69kwdBLXp1FiXBC2z0ZT8?utm_source=CS&utm_campaign=2bcf03e655-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-2bcf03e655-386548940#/registration)

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

## 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/>

## YAD CHESSED



### 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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