



**Jewish Name Changing in America, Jerusalem
Development Series, Upcoming Programs, Purim
Campaign, Shul Tours and More –
March 18, 2024**

Purim begins Saturday evening

HAPPY PURIM!

חג פורים שמח

**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.

Walnut Street Synagogue

SPRING SPEAKER SERIES
- JEWISH EXPERIENCES
IN AMERICA

**Jewish Name Changing in
America**
with Kirsten Fermaglich

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>

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.



Nachlaot: 1875-1920

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

This unique cluster of “micro-neighborhoods” is not like any other area of Jerusalem, and it represents the growth spurt of the New City. After the first neighborhoods planted the roots, the city exploded with construction and development. Nachlaot became one of the more diverse areas, with numerous different communities represented, a rapidly developing architectural style, and many colorful characters who became central to the progress in the country overall.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jerusalem-nachlaot-1875-1920-tickets-796380444347?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!



Green Commemorations – Towards New Strategies of Public Memory

Tuesday, March 19, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

In her presentation, Aleksandra (Ola) Janus will explore innovative strategies for commemorating Holocaust sites, focusing on integrating green spaces and ecological sustainability. Addressing the challenge of caring for forgotten graves of Holocaust victims in Polish cities and villages, the nonprofit “Zapomniane” (meaning “forgotten”) plays a key role in rediscovering and respectfully commemorating these sites in collaboration with local communities. Janus’ approach emphasizes environmental sustainability through the use of local materials and technology, artistic and architectural quality, and a strong scientific foundation. This new method of remembrance advocates for community-based processes that incorporate diverse voices and stakeholders, blending cultural and artistic mediation into

both urban and rural landscapes. rural environments that include various stakeholders and a variety of voices into the process.

Aleksandra (Ola) Janus, with a PhD in Anthropology from Jagiellonian University, is a dynamic figure at the convergence of academia, art, and activism. As President of the Zapomniane Foundation, she focuses on commemorating forgotten Holocaust burial sites in Poland and co-founded the Engaged Memory Consortium to promote remembrance with a focus on social justice. She has also co-curated educational and critical programs like 'Exercising modernity' and 'Museum Lab,' and advocates for environmental awareness in heritage institutions through initiatives like Museums for the Climate and Culture for Climate. In addition to her practical work, Ola is an active academic, lecturing at SWPS University and collaborating with the Research Center for Memory Cultures and the "Thinking Through The Museum" global network.

https://us06web.zoom.us/join?pwd=ZGpudU5rZGRHdD0j8OMVtYw6BtcjuXGHVb5?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=49f860fafd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-49f860fafd-386548940#/registration

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

Part 3 - Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Rabbinic Judaism - Thursday, March 21, 1:00 pm EDT (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 3 - Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Rabbinic Judaism - The Rabbinic prayer book canonized Deuteronomy's version of Judaism. The medieval philosophical tradition, beginning with Moses Maimonides (1138-1204), did two things: (1) They understood all of Jewish tradition through the prism of Deuteronomy, and (2) They believed Deuteronomy was written for purposes of political education rather than philosophical truth. By rereading tradition so radically they created a new religion. By the late Middle Ages, it was moribund.

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/join?pwd=ZGpudU5rZGRHdD0j8OMVtYw6BtcjuXGHVb5?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

The Many Souths of the World: Mizrahi Women and the Transformation of Israeli Society

Tuesday, March 19, 12:00 pm EDT (online program presented by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University)

Join the Schusterman Center learn about the potential of Mizrahi women's experiences to create a different political horizon for Israeli society. Dr. Sigal Nagar-Ron and Adv. Netta Amar-Shiff will discuss the southeast perspective in the context of the current social and political reality.

https://brandeis.zoom.us/join?pwd=ZGpudU5rZGRHdD0j8OMVtYw6BtcjuXGHVb5?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=49f860fafd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-49f860fafd-386548940#/registration

The Abraham Accords Post October 7

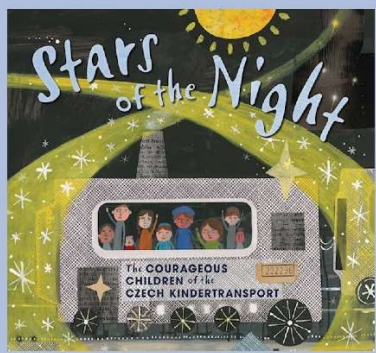
Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm EDT (online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)

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/>

Stars of the Night


Sunday, March 31, 11:10 am EDT (in person program at Temple Sinai, 50 Sewall Ave., Brookline)




A Reading and Discussion:

Sunday, March 31 at 11:10 AM
Temple Sinai, 50 Sewall Ave, Brookline


The award-winning team of author Caren Stelson and illustrator Selina Alko will present their recent book *Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport*, a non-fiction picture book for older children and adults. This powerful story is told from the collective perspective of the children who were rescued from Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II as Hitler's campaign of hatred toward Jews and political dissidents took hold. The author tells us, "Save one life, save the world!" What does this idea mean in the context of the kindertransport effort and for us today? After sharing their book with the audience, Caren and Selina will be joined by moderator Roger Simon, Editor Emerita of *The Horn* Book, the distinguished journal for children and young adult literature, in further discussion of *Stars of the Night* and Holocaust literature for young people, and questions from the audience are encouraged. Copies of the book will be available for sale and autographing. Admission is free.



Caren Stelson, Author



Selina Alko, Illustrator



Roger Simon, Moderator

The award winning team of author Caren Stelson and illustrator Selina Alko will present their recent book *Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport*, a nonfiction picture book for older children and adults. This powerful story is told from the collective perspective of the children who were rescued from Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II, as Hitler's campaign of hatred toward Jews and political dissidents took hold. Q&A will follow the program, which is aimed at adults and children over the age of eight.

No Registration Required

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 or call: 781-613-3413

More information: 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 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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Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com