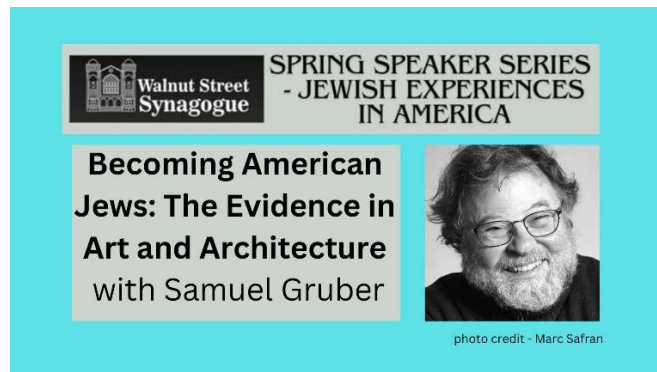




Spring Speaker Series, Jerusalem Development Series, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – March 25, 2024

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. This series is dedicated in memory of our friend, Chelsea native, Boston area educator and author Norman H. Finkelstein, z"l.



Becoming American Jews: The Evidence in Art and Architecture Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

Whenever Jews emigrated to America they had to adapt to new circumstances and often create new identities. Jews tried to balance tradition, which often meant maintaining a status as the “other,” and adopting American appearance, customs, language, and beliefs, to become one of the “many.” This talk tracks these changes through the art and architecture made by and for Jews. We’ll 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. Sometimes the art was two-faced, with one visual language used for the wider world and another within the Jewish community. Are there such examples at the Walnut Street Shul? 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. He was founding director of the Jewish Heritage Council of the World Monuments Fund (WMF) for which he planned and oversaw major documentation, planning and restoration projects in many countries. He has also co-authored *Synagogues and Mass Graves Sites in Ukraine* (2005); *Survey of Historic Jewish Sites in the Czech Republic* (1995), *Survey of Historic Jewish Sites in Poland* (1994; rev. 1995) and many scholarly and popular articles on medieval architecture, Jewish art and architecture, and historic preservation. Gruber is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. Besides his consulting work, he has taught part-time in Jewish Studies at Syracuse University since 1994. *This series is made possible by a grant from the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund and other generous donors.*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speaker-series-becoming-american-jews-the-evidence-in-art-and-architecture-tickets-846089144407?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!



From Anger to Activism – The Story of 5050

A Partnership for Gender Equality in Israel

Tuesday, March 26, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Founded in the wake of Israel's fifth election cycle within four years, **Project 5050** emerged from a profound frustration over the underrepresentation of women in Israeli politics. Spearheaded by Yael Yechieli, the initiative aims to achieve an equal 50/50 representation of women and men in all decision-making bodies, from the Knesset to local authorities and public NGOs. In this talk, Yael will share the journey of 5050 from its inception, highlighting its grassroots strategy, the transformative impact on municipal elections, and its vision for a more equitable political future.

Yael Yechiely, a dedicated Israeli social entrepreneur, has been at the forefront of significant Israeli social movements in the realms of religious freedom, human rights, and equality for over a decade. She established Project 5050 after extensive research and on-the-ground insights, launching it publicly the day after Israel's national elections in November 2022. Quickly gaining traction, the project saw hundreds, then thousands, joining its cause, leading to the formation of over 40 municipal groups in its first year. Despite challenges like the postponement of elections due to the “Iron Swords” war, Yael and her team remained committed, contributing to initiatives like “The Anchor for Military Families” while steadfastly

advocating for equal gender representation in all decision-making spheres.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vf-CurT4jGNyhYUXqgyEIOGMI0tEA1aF1?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=6e40fdb479-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-6e40fdb479-386548940#/registration

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

Part 4 - Medieval Jewish Mysticism and Rabbinic Judaism- Thursday, March 28, 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 4 - Medieval Jewish Mysticism and Rabbinic Judaism - The medieval mystics understood early on that the philosophers' agenda would be detrimental to Jewish faith and observance. The mystics rehabilitated the priestly underpinnings of animal sacrifices and applied them to prayer. For the philosophers, prayer was simply an obligation; for the mystics, prayer was a way of increasing God's power in this world. Every mitzvah that Chabad has a Jew do, brings the messiah one step closer to arriving!

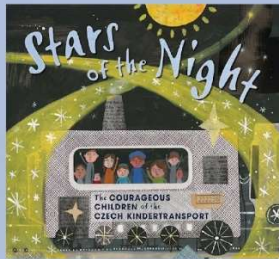
Rabbi Dr. Shai Cherry serves as rabbi and Creative Educational Officer of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. After eighteen years in academics, Cherry shifted from university teaching to the pulpit in 2019. Rav Shai's early academic research focused on Judaism and Darwinism. His 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

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS




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 Deborah Hopwood and illustrator Shana Levine will present their most recent book, *Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport*, a new historical picture book for older children and adults. This powerful story tells of the children who were rescued from Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II as their parents sought to save them from persecution. What does this story mean in the context of the Kindertransport effort and for us today? Other authors and illustrators will be joined by readers of *Stars of the Night*. Follow *Stars of the Night* Book Club on the popular journal for children and young adult literature, *The Further Shores of Stars of the Night* and *Halakha* 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.



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/>



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 for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchessed.org.

Support Yad Chessed - <https://givebutter.com/yadchessed>

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