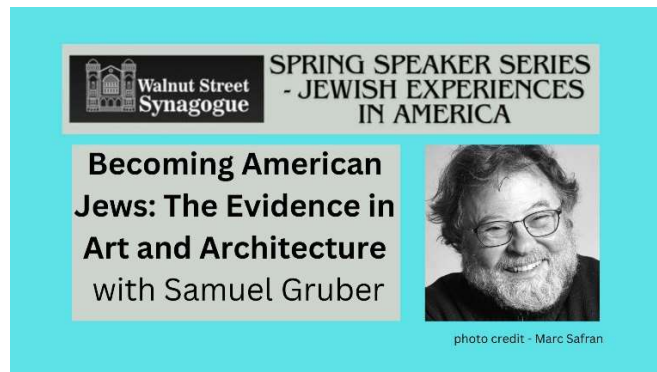




## Spring Speaker Series, Jerusalem Development Series, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – April 1, 2024

### 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!



## **Artifacts of Identity – Exploring Jewish Material Culture Through Time**

**Part 1 - The Lost Ark** - Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

**Part 2 - Fragments of the Temple** - Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

**Part 3 - Clothes Make the Person** - Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

**Part 4 - At Home in the Jewish World** - Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

**Part 5 - At Home in the Jewish World** - Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

When we think about archaeology, we think, of course, about antiquity. But Jews in all times in places lived in communities surrounded by the material culture – the architecture, the furnishings, the clothing, and the artifacts – of their time. Join Professor Marc Michael Epstein for a deep dive into Jewish spaces, places, clothing, and the material remains of daily and synagogue life — of Jewish “stuff” throughout the ages. How should we go about digging for clues in this vast array of material? And how can we use what we discover about how Jewish “stuff” in times gone by to understand Jewish “stuff” and Jewish lives today?

**Part 1 - The Lost Ark** - Is it in Ethiopia? Hidden under the Vatican? In your Uncle Morris' attic? A look at the facts and fictions surrounding the fate of this legendary artifact.

**Part 2 - Fragments of the Temple** - Do we know what the destroyed Jerusalem Temples looked like? How? What archaeological evidence is there that they ever existed, and what are the politics around the promotion or suppression of such evidence?

**Part 3 - Clothes Make the Person** - What remains of historical Jewish costume in history? How were Jews distinguished from others and how did (and does) Jewish clothing “mark” Jews?

**Part 4 - At Home in the Jewish World** - What can we learn about Jewish life from the Jewish home, as depicted in art? Where can we find the “lost treasures” of historical Jewish civilizations now gone?

**Part 5 - Erased Synagogues** - So many synagogues that were, in former times, the hubs of vibrant communities are no longer extant, for a myriad of reasons. Can we reconstruct these beautiful, vanished buildings?

Winner of the 2015 Jewish Book Award in Visual Arts for *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts*, **Marc Michael Epstein** is the product of a mixed marriage between the scions of Slonimer and Lubavitcher Hassidim and Romanian socialists, and grew up, rather confused, but happy, in Brooklyn, New York. He is currently Professor of Religion at Vassar College, where he has been teaching since 1992, and was the first Director of Jewish Studies. At Vassar, he teaches courses on medieval Christianity, religion, arts and politics, and Jewish texts and sources. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, received the PhD at Yale University, and did much of his graduate research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. During the 1980s, Epstein was Director of the Hebrew Books and Manuscripts division of Sotheby's Judaica department. He continues to serve as consultant to various libraries, auction houses, museums and private collectors throughout the world.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodOGozwuEtW21L6o361KEe1NjaHryfUa?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=d438e678a2-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_04&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-d438e678a2-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodOGozwuEtW21L6o361KEe1NjaHryfUa?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=d438e678a2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-d438e678a2-386548940#/registration)

## **Questioning Belief – Torah and Tradition in an Age of Doubt**

Thursday, April 4, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Do you firmly believe in God? Are all the stories in the Torah true? And are its laws still ethical today? If you are not sure, you are not alone... Join us for an enlightening online book launch event featuring Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum in conversation with Dr. Tanya White. In his groundbreaking new work, *Questioning Belief*, Rabbi Zarum tackles twelve challenging questions that confront the Torah today, delving into its narratives, laws, and beliefs with depth and nuance. Drawing upon historical, scientific, and philosophical research alongside classical Jewish sources, Rabbi Zarum offers surprising and stimulating insights that invite readers to engage with their faith in profound ways. Renowned for his acclaimed lectures worldwide, Rabbi Zarum fearlessly confronts uncomfortable questions while maintaining a tradition-rooted and intellectually rigorous approach. Joining him is Dr. Tanya White, whose expertise in Tanach and Jewish Philosophy adds a unique and inspiring dimension to the conversation. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into thought-provoking dialogue and deepen your understanding of Torah narratives and beliefs.

**Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum** is Dean of the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) and holds the Rabbi Sacks Chair in Modern Jewish Thought at the school. He is a rabbinic leader, lecturer and author with a passion for teaching traditional Jewish texts and innovative educational programming for young and old. Rabbi Dr. Zarum earned a PhD in Theoretical Physics from King's College London, leading to the publication of a number of papers on Quantum Chaos Theory. As well as Dean of LSJS, Rabbi Zarum currently serves as the Scholar-in-Residence at the Central Square Minyan in Hampstead Garden Suburb. He studied at Yeshivat HaKotel in Jerusalem and the Kollel of the Judith Lady Montefiore College in London where he received rabbinic ordination.

**Dr. Tanya White** is a sought-after international lecturer and writer who specializes in Tanach and Contemporary Jewish Thought. She is a Senior lecturer at Matan Women's Institute for Torah Studies and LSJS as well as teaching in Pardes, Bar Ilan and other institutions. Tanya acts as scholar in residence to diverse communities in the United States, Switzerland and the UK. She holds a doctorate in Jewish Philosophy from Bar Ilan University, and was elected as a “Sacks Scholar” in the inaugural cohort program of Rabbi Sacks Scholars 2023-2024. Tanya lives with her husband and family on a Moshav in central Israel.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde-tqzgsG9xghlvMPKmjxMMTWPQ\\_Q7EF?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=1da72b9d61-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-1da72b9d61-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde-tqzgsG9xghlvMPKmjxMMTWPQ_Q7EF?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=1da72b9d61-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-1da72b9d61-386548940#/registration)

## **Lines of Resonance – Unveiling the Poetic Tapestry of Contemporary Israel**

Sunday, April 7, 2:30 pm EDT (online)

Do you firmly believe in God? Are all the stories in the Torah true? And are its laws still ethical today? If you are not sure, you are not a Jew. The calamity of October 7th had left Israel and the Jewish world in shock and despair. The unimaginable became our reality. As more details of the horror unfold, we find ourselves less and less able to talk about it. The expression most commonly used is אין מילים ein milim – No Words! And yet – there are those who struggle and find words to express pain and anger, despair and abandonment. In our session we will read and discuss poetry written these days. The poems are often raw and painful, while at the same time also full of love and even hope.

**Dr. Rachel Korazim** is a powerful speaker and a freelance Jewish education consultant specializing in curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education. She is involved with Jewish education worldwide; creating and implementing in-service training programs for educators, writing educational materials, counseling and teaching. As one of the founders and directors of a special program for Israeli soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds, she was responsible for creating the educational framework and training teachers for the implementation of the program. Born in Israel, she served in the I.D.F. as an officer in the central training base for women and was later a member of the I.D.F. delegation to Niger (West Africa). She is a graduate of Haifa University with a PhD in Jewish education.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?meetingref=6459ae7a26-xIEbyDKDO1tJOxAOsq?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=6459ae7a26-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-6459ae7a26-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?meetingref=6459ae7a26-xIEbyDKDO1tJOxAOsq?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=6459ae7a26-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-6459ae7a26-386548940#/registration)

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

### **Between the Stone and the Flower**

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 pm EDT (in person program at the West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington Street, West Newton)

Join Boston Jewish Film for a special screening of the film *Between the Stone and the Flower*, featuring a discussion with renowned Crypto-Jewish genealogist, author, and film subject Genie Milgrom! Born in Havana, Cuba, and raised in Miami, Genie Milgrom's education was steeped in Roman Catholicism, from grade school to university. Despite her upbringing, she carried a persistent sense of disconnection within her Spanish Catholic surroundings, ultimately learning she has a lineage of Jewish relatives dating back centuries. Genie's story is one of twists and turns as she confronts the challenging choice to transition from her traditional Catholic background to embracing Judaism, ultimately opting for an Orthodox path. Her decision sends shockwaves through her family and friends, while her conviction about her family's Jewish roots in the Iberian Peninsula centuries prior only deepens. The screening is followed by an in person conversation with Film Subject/Producer Genie Milgrom, moderated by Dalia Wassner, PhD, Director of Jews of the Americas at Brandeis University.

#### **More information and tickets -**

<https://ticketing.bostonjfilm.org/websales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=421929~3a1dbf00-5ad7-4f53-af12-28ba7bfe20f4&epguid=2fc92652-3c5a-461b-b935-094fca2613e8&>

### **Voices From the Past...Lessons for the Future**

Sunday, April 7, 2:30 pm EDT (online program presented by New England Friends of March of the Living)

Join New England Friends of March of the Living (NEFMOTL) for their annual virtual event. NEFMOTL is part of the International MOTL, which brings teens from around the world to Poland and Israel to study the history of the Holocaust, examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hatred. During the program, Janet Stein Calm will receive the fourth annual Stephan Ross Excellence in Holocaust Education Award award. She is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor who has devoted much of her life to honoring survivors, to learning their histories, and ensuring that these eyewitness accounts are part of Holocaust education programs and she serves as President of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

<https://www.wizevents.com/nemotl2024/?id=8385>

## **Antisemitism & Anti-Zionism Worldwide**

Monday, April 8, 7:00 pm EDT (online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)

Join the Lappin Foundation for *Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism Worldwide*. Ido Aharoni Aronoff will explain how Anti-Zionism became the new antisemitism and will discuss the rise of Jew-hatred in the age of information overload. 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/antisemitism-anti-zionism-worldwide/>

## **Birnbaum Memorial Lecture – Navigating Uncharted Waters: War, Antisemitism and the American Campus**

Sunday, April 14, 7:00 pm EDT (in person program at the Newton Collaborative Jewish Campus, 1860 Washington St., Newton and online)

The annual Birnbaum Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Connie Spear Birnbaum Foundation in partnership with Hebrew College and Temple Reyim will feature a timely conversation with three local Jewish campus activists addressing the war in Israel, antisemitism, and what's happening on college campuses. William Daroff, CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will lead the discussion.

**More information and registration -** <https://www.connielecture.com/home#lecture>

## **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 (chedsed) and charity (zedakah), 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@yadchedsed.org](mailto:intake@yadchedsed.org) for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to [info@yadchedsed.org](mailto:info@yadchedsed.org).

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

## **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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