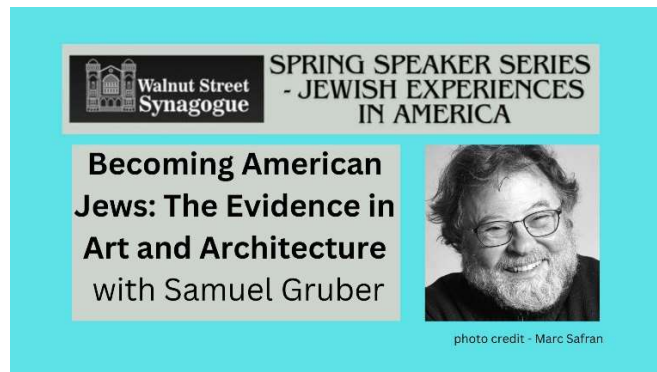




## Spring Speaker Series this week, Jerusalem Development Series, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – April 8, 2024

### 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 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 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)

### **What did Abraham have to do with the Abraham Accords?**

Sunday, April 14, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

While the political motivations for Arab states to normalize relations with Israel are well known, this session looks at the religious-cultural language around the Abraham Accords. Was this just branding, or a real attempt to rewrite the script of Arab-Jewish relations? And what will be the fate of all this following the Israel-Hamas war?

**Dr. Toby Greene** is visiting fellow in the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics and a lecturer in the Department for Political Studies at Bar Ilan University. He is a former Marie Curie Fellow at Queen Mary University of London and has held research and teaching positions at Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. He earned his PhD from UCL for his thesis on British foreign policy in the Israeli-Palestinian arena. Toby’s research and teaching focuses on foreign policy, with a focus on civilizational identity politics in the Middle East and Europe. He publishes and lectures widely for scholarly, professional and general audiences.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkfuuoqT8jHtz6L2VKZFhq4nVnv8c1yaF?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=4ada1d2da3-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-4ada1d2da3-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkfuuoqT8jHtz6L2VKZFhq4nVnv8c1yaF?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=4ada1d2da3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-4ada1d2da3-386548940#/registration)

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

### **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/>



### **Fulfill a Passover Mitzvah with Yad Chessed: "Let all Who are Hungry Come and Eat"**

As Passover approaches, we all have the opportunity to fulfill the beautiful mitzvah of Maot Chittim ("wheat money") by making a donation to Yad Chessed to ensure that every member of our community can afford food and joyfully celebrate this cherished holiday.

Maot Chittim is a mitzvah which dates to ancient times when individuals would contribute funds so that everyone in their community could afford the necessary provisions for the Passover holiday. Yad Chessed, an organization focused solely on assisting Jews in our community currently struggling with financial hardship and food insecurity, is committed to upholding this tradition by helping families purchase food on Passover. Your generous donation will contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind during this special time of year.

By giving to Yad Chessed, you are not only fulfilling a fundamental mitzvah but also spreading hope, joy, and unity throughout our community. And, if you know of someone in our community who is struggling with financial challenges, please encourage them to reach out to Yad Chessed ([www.yadchedded.org/intake-form/](http://www.yadchedded.org/intake-form/)) for assistance.

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

## 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.walnutstreetsshul@gmail.com](mailto:central.walnutstreetsshul@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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